

17 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Wow! What a great start to Year 11 our students have made. We have been really impressed with their excellent attitude to learning and the hard work they are already putting into lessons.

We are writing to you with some key information about the next few months, which will enable you to support your child. We want to ensure, as you do, that your child achieves the very best grades possible next summer to give them as many options for further education, training or employment after Year 11.

Included at the end of this letter are key details about any changes announced by Ofqual (the exam board regulator) to GCSE courses this year. Please read through them so you are aware of anything relevant to your child's GCSE options. We are now waiting for further information from the exam boards in response to this and also to find out if there are any further changes to our vocational qualifications. As you may be aware from recent news, the summer 2021 exam timetable has been moved back by 3 weeks to allow students more time to prepare for their examinations. There is currently much speculation around whether exams will go ahead in 2021, as Scotland and Wales have already moved away from them. At the moment, the government has not announced any plans to move away from summer exams and as such we must continue to prepare your children accordingly. However, we will advise parents if anything changes.

Year 11 Intervention Sessions

Due to the national lockdown and the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, Year 11 intervention sessions will be very different this year. Instead of being held in school they will, for the foreseeable future, be held online. There will be a range of sessions on offer for your child. It is vital that your child accesses these sessions to support them in being prepared for their upcoming mocks, as well as their end of year exams. Individual subjects have made arrangements for intervention with your children via their Appleton Academy email.

If, like last year, the government takes the decision to move to 'Centre Assessed' grades or another assessment system in lieu of end of year exams, it is vital that we have enough evidence of work from each student to support any grade making decisions we may be faced with. If your child does not have the facility to access online learning at home e.g. internet or a device on which to access their school work, then please email details to diane.whitehead@appletonacademy.co.uk immediately so that we can support you.

Year 11 Exams

In January 2021, some students will be sitting their official external assessments in some vocational subjects and we will also be holding our mock exams. Mock exams are a good indicator of a students' progress towards their final grades and this year are likely to be even more important than previously. Your child will shortly be receiving a mock exam timetable and it is vital that they begin their preparation now by attending the intervention sessions as outlined above, doing their own revision at home and working hard in class.

We have also included the exam timetable for next summer.



Due to Covid 19, we will be holding a 'virtual' Year 11 Parents' Information Evening on Thursday 4 March 2021. It is essential that all parents engage with this to support your child through the remainder of their Year 11 studies.

However, as this is quite some time away, we will also be holding a Year 11 virtual consultation evening on Tuesday 12th January 2021, which will coincide with you receiving your child's first set of current and predicted grades of Year 11. During the consultation evening, you will have the opportunity to speak to your child's form tutor and their class teachers. Further information will be sent to you shortly.

Please find below a list of key dates for Year 11 (please be aware that most large events that are normally held in school will be moved online until further notice e.g. Parents' Evenings). We have also included a copy of the Summer 2021 timetable, which has just been released this week.

Tuesday 12 January 2021	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
Tuesday 12 January 2021	Year 11 Mock Examinations Start
Friday 26 February 2021	Year 11 Data collection 2 - Mock exam results & predictions
Thursday 4 March 2021	Year 11 Online Parents' Evening
Wednesday 26 May 2021	Year 11 Exam season begins
Friday 2 July 2021	Year 11 Exam season ends
Friday 27 August 2021	GCSE Results Day (Morning)

Through all of us working together, we know that your children, our students, will have a really positive year and get the results they deserve for their hard work next August. Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns in what is a very unusual year.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary

Diane Whitehead
Deputy Headteacher

[Subject Decisions Table for Summer 2021](#)



Summary of decisions for each GCSE subject:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>
AQA English language	Spoken language assessment conducted at any point, in person or virtually, during the year in front of teacher only who can represent an 'audience'.
AQA English literature	In line with the exam amendments for 2020-21, Year 11 students will need to: Answer one question on the play Macbeth by William Shakespeare (34 marks) Answer one question on the play An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley (30 marks) Answer one Anthology Poetry question from the Power and Conflict cluster (30 marks) Answer one question on an unseen poem (28 marks) Compare two unseen poems (8 marks) This year students will not study Jekyll & Hyde, a 19th Century Novel, as part of their English Literature exam. All exam content for English Literature has been covered in class and will be revisited over the coming months as we prepare students to sit their final exams.
Edexcel Maths	No change to assessment arrangements.
AQA Biology	Observation of required practicals only-no need to undertake themselves.
AQA Chemistry	Observation of required practicals only-no need to undertake themselves.
AQA Physics	Observation of required practicals only-no need to undertake themselves.
AQA Combined science	Observation of required practicals only-no need to undertake themselves.
AQA Geography	Remove requirements for (i) written statement that centres have given students the opportunity to undertake 2 days of fieldwork and (ii) students to answer questions in the exam relating to their own fieldwork experience.
AQA History	AQA have reduced the number of topics covered in history; the only compulsory unit will be Conflict and Tension. Schools have a choice over other topics covered. Therefore, for 2021, students will be studying Elizabethan England (c. 1568 - 1603), Germany: Democracy and Dictatorship (1890 - 1945), and Conflict and Tension: The Inter War Years (1918 - 1939).

AQA Spanish	<p>Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists and permit glossing where necessary whilst maintaining level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades. Spoken language assessment not examined externally, an endorsement reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit, and distinction) against common assessment criteria. To be assessed by teachers during the course of study.</p> <p>Exam boards to include an additional optional question in the writing assessment which would enable students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.</p>
AQA Design and Technology	<p>Exam boards to accept mock-ups and/or clear and detailed intentions of prototypes. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements. Permit demonstration of using machinery/tools/processes.</p>
AQA GCSE Art and design	<p>Assessment - portfolio only. Moderation by photographic and/or digital portfolio.</p>
Eduqas GCSE Drama	<p>Component 1 - DEVISING-Reduced timings of performances required as evidence to show acting skills. Portfolio remains unchanged 900 words of content required. The evaluation is no longer completed in timed conditions but has had a 900-word restriction.</p> <p>Component 2 – SCRIPTED- reduced timings of performances. Statement of intent remains the same with a maximum of 1 A4 page to be sent to the exam board. Performances will be recorded and submitted online rather than performed live to examiner. Submission by May.</p> <p>Component 3 – External written exam at a later date than May the 18th (TBC) -no changes in content.</p>
Eduqas Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering	<p>Remove NEA1 and permit an earlier release of NEA2.</p> <p>To reduce the requirements for NEA2 to 2 dishes to be completed within 3 hours to allow for students to use complex processes such as baking, lamination, making ice-cream and to accommodate public health restrictions.</p>
Edexcel BTEC Sport	<p>Permit exam boards to reduce requirement to 2 activities and allow both to be individual.</p> <p>Permit remote moderation using videoed evidence for all activities.</p> <p>Permit exam boards to explore relaxation of the requirements for provision of evidence for example, type and quality of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport.</p>
Edexcel Music	<p>Unit 1 – external written exam 7th January, no changes to content. (resit only for some)</p> <p>Unit 2 – creating a musical product- no minimum performance time (previously minimum of 5 minutes). Portfolios can be submitted electronically.</p> <p>Unit 4 – Previously specific composition software was required to complete sequences, however, now work can consist of MP3s of composed or sequenced work with supporting documentation that can also be electronic.</p> <p>Unit 5 – One performance (previously two). A solo is now permitted and no requirement for an audience.</p>



<p>Edexcel Health and Social Care</p>	<p>No change to assessment arrangements</p>
<p>Edexcel Child Development</p>	<p>No change to assessment arrangements</p>
<p>OCR iMedia</p>	<p>R081: Pre-production skills. Monday 11th January 2021 PM 1hr 15 written paper. This is a full paper with no omitted content. Exam is worth 25% of overall grade.</p>
<p>Edexcel Creative Media Production</p>	<p>Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief. Controlled assessment paper released 06/01/20 rather than 03/02/20 to allow for more delivery time in light of current situation nationally. Paper must be completed by 19/05/20 in 9 supervised hours out of 48 hours total unit time. No change to paper weighting or completion method as of yet.</p>
<p>OCR Business</p>	<p>No change to assessment arrangements.</p>