

Year 11 GCSE Assessment

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and all your loved ones continue to stay safe and well during these times. Back in January the Prime Minister announced that GCSE examinations would not be going ahead this year. It has since been confirmed that grading will be teacher assessed based on evidence gathered in the classroom.

As a school we have considered how best to support our students through this process ensuring it is fair, consistent and accurate. We have therefore decided that after the disruption of lockdown and some isolation periods from earlier in the year the fairest method for all students is to provide a four week assessment window in which all completed classwork will count towards the evidence for the grade. The assessment window will run from Wednesday 21st April - Friday 21st May.

We have been preparing for this and subject staff have been putting together suitable assessment activities and materials which will allow each student to demonstrate their current ability in a variety of ways. To ensure the process is consistent and accurate we will be allowing the students to leave school at 12.30pm on Core subject days (Mon/Wed/Fri) once they have completed their Core lessons. This will not only allow time for staff to provide ongoing support to the students but it also eases some of the pressure on the students in what must be a time of anxiety and uncertainty for them. We have already seen a number of students who are concerned about the future, the uncertainty of what happens once they leave CCA and being worried they will not achieve the grades they need to progress onto further education.. Students have a fantastic opportunity now to showcase what they can do and the more consistent evidence they provide us with means we can justify the accurate grade we give.

Transport will be rearranged during this assessment window to account for the earlier finish time on Core days and on Vocational days (Tuesday/Thursday) students will remain in school until 2pm to allow them to complete the relevant courses. There may be occasions where some students remain in school on Core days to access clubs or additional classes such as GCSE Art, Burnley Youth Theatre, Green Power Club. These clubs will all continue as normal during the assessment window.

If you have any queries or concerns around GCSE's and the process we are implementing please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Chris Whittaker
Deputy Headteacher