

Year 13 Grades 2021 Update – Q&As

The following questions were asked by students and parents following the presentation of the 'Year 13 Grades 2021 Update' PowerPoint, which can also be found in the Parent Information section of the school website.

Are there normal lessons during the assessments or will the students be on study leave?

There will be normal lessons delivered between the assessments to allow students to prepare for their individual subjects. Teachers will be planning & delivering lessons as normal. Once the assessments of a particular subject have finished then there will be no more lessons delivered of that subject. Some subjects (BTEC sport) may offer additional lessons after the assessments

Once the assessments finish, are they due back in or have they then finished 6th form

As per letter on 23 April, the last day for year 13s completing work is the 21st May

Are they due in on the Friday 21st May as it's the last day?

Unless they have an assessment on that day or unless they need to complete an item of their bundle they will not need to attend that day. From 3.30pm to 5.30pm we will be having a Celebration BBQ for all year 13 students in the F6 garden. The more formal celebrations will take place on Friday 9 July which will be the Leavers' Ball. Information to follow.

Can the decision for teachers not being allowed to give us marks on practice questions we do before the assessment be reviewed? It is difficult if we don't know what level we are working at.

In-class assessments that have already been done are being marked by teachers. Other assessments that were done previously, students would know what mark they received. The underlying issue is that you wouldn't know from the mark what that would mean for the overall grade. Even with the marks already given it wouldn't provide a clear indication of how you were doing. Raw marks do not necessarily indicate what grade someone is working to. We cannot be hinting, suggesting or alluding to TAGs that students are obtaining so that we are not breaching any conditions put in place by JCQ. The basket of evidence refers to some work that has already been completed and marked – it is not just on the May assessments. From this point, we simply cannot be giving out what grade may be attached to the raw scores.

In S11/12 there aren't enough tables for each student for maths, will we be sat next to others?

Maths is a large cohort. Some alternative arrangements have been made in using an additional room in the F6 building. This will show on the seating plans that are displayed in the F6 building for students. By arranging the seating it allows enough room for students to be able to remove their mask for comfort if need be during the assessments.

Why is no evidence from the beginning of year 12 before lockdown being used?

It is different for each subject with majority of the basket of evidence taken from year 13 which is in line with the JCQ guidance and the guidance from Ofqual which indicates clearly that students will have covered most of the content by the end of the course and that in order to demonstrate ability across all aspects of the subject they would be expected to be able to



demonstrate more by the end of the course. It is also a requirement to indicate that work being used to decide the TAG is all the student's own work. This has guided the choice of some of the pieces of evidence. If you have a particular question regarding a specific subject then please email in to the F6 Leadership team.

If a student feels that they can revise better outside a lesson during the assessments is that acceptable?

We strongly believe that the best place for students to prepare for the assessments is to be with their teachers and having guidance and support from their teachers who will be preparing lessons during the assessment window. We are encouraging students to take advantage of that.

It is important to remember that these are assessments not exams and that teachers know what is in them and can guide students and support them with specific questions for the specific subjects. If assessments are all complete, students no longer need to attend college. This a prime opportunity to be with your teachers in order to prepare as well as possible for the assessments.

Psychology in year 12 had a consistent teacher but we can't say the same for year 13. Surely it's unfair to only use data from 2nd year when grades would obviously be lower from majority of students due to inconsistency.

Baskets of evidence were released about a month ago. Students have had the opportunity to ask questions about them. Baskets of evidence are fixed and an incredible amount of thought has gone into creating those baskets of evidence to give the students the best opportunity for success. There may be some queries about these decisions, but it is important to remember that they have been made with the interests of our students in mind. There will be no changes to the contents of the baskets of evidence. There may be some flexibility on which evidence is weighted more than others. The basket of evidence is now fixed.

If a new teacher doesn't know your capabilities in a certain subject because they haven't taught you for long enough, how will this be managed?

The basket of evidence is broad enough to allow a variety of different sources to be used. The TAG awarded is not a subjective opinion of one particular person. There are internal checks and due diligence before a final grade is given. The final assessment is your opportunity to show what you can do.

This is not as it was last year with CAGs which were based on what students would have achieved had it been a normal year i.e. a prediction, what we are required to do to award a TAG is to make an assessment based on student performance across the subject course content and to base the decision on evidence. The evidence used to make the decision is the 'basket of evidence'. We have moderation support from other schools for those subjects which only have one teacher so that marking is done at the right standard and the basket of evidence is being assessed at the correct national standard. Final TAGs are being checked and verified to ensure everyone is treated fairly in each subject.

There will be further updates via email to ensure everyone is kept informed.