



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Year 13

The current situation

As you know, the government made the decision that schools must close to most, to limit the spread of Covid-19. Exam year students had already experienced disruption to their learning during the 2019/20 academic year and many students faced more disruption during the 2020 autumn term due to the need to self-isolate. With the loss of at least a further 6 weeks' face-to-face teaching and uncertainty about when face-to-face teaching might resume the government considers that exams cannot be held in a way which is, and which is perceived to be, fair. Although schools have taken significant steps to improve their quality of remote learning, it is nevertheless likely that a schools' ability to teach the entire curriculum and provide the usual exam preparation support will be impacted. The government also recognises that the impact of the pandemic varies between regions, between schools within a region, and from student to student according to their personal circumstances.

All year 13 students need grades to continue to the next stage of their education or training. Grades must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do. In place of exams in summer 2021 it is proposed that a student's grade in a subject will be based on their teacher's assessment of the standard at which they are performing. This will be based on a variety of factors such as; classwork in school and within Google Classroom, live lessons conducted remotely, class discussions, assessments that have taken place and will take place, and homework. It also needs to take into consideration what the student would have potentially achieved at the end of their course, had there been no disruption to their learning and they had sat their final public examinations.

The government and Ofqual are in consultation with schools and examination boards, on how year 13 'Centre Assessed Grades' will be generated by schools for their students this summer. There has been a suggestion that there may be mini exams in the summer, but we will have to wait for the results of the consultation to know exactly what we are preparing our students for. In the meantime, we will continue to work hard to ensure that students follow the curriculum and assessment patterns they would have had if they were learning in the academy.

I know many of you have worried that your opportunity to shine and to prove yourself might have been taken away, and I expect some of you might have even begun to think there is little point now in carrying on. You may even think your courses have ended. However, the government did not say there would be no exams at all (although there might not be) and they definitely did not say the work you have already done and the work you will do between now and the end of the summer will not count.

You are not in the same position as Year 13 were last year, who had finished their courses when the news came that exams were cancelled. You have not finished your A Level or BTEC courses yet, and we have given you the opportunity to be removed from the EPQ qualification to reduce the pressure and free up further time. Mr Doganbaloglu will be available for Maths catch up during the lessons that were allocated to EPQ.

Progress checks

We will be carrying out a series of 'Progress checks' over the coming months. These progress checks are to help inform your teachers of how you have been progressing in what you have been learning.

Progress check 1

The first round of progress checks will take place straight after February half-term. These will only take place during your timetabled live lessons, between Monday 22nd February and Friday 5th March.

Each subject will have one progress check, which will last for 45 minutes (with 25% extra time for those students who are entitled to it). The progress check will be uploaded to your Google Classroom for the start of your live lesson, where you will be logged into the Google meet with your camera and sound on. The progress check will be conducted under examination conditions. Your teacher will explain at the start of the session, all of the logistical aspects and expectations to you. For example, how to submit your answers.

Progress check 1 timetable

Subject	Assessment Date and lesson
Biology	22/2/2021 - Lesson 5
Chemistry	24/2/2021 - Lesson 3
Maths	23/2/2021 - Lesson 1
Psychology	26/2/2021- Lessons 3 & 4

Progress check 2

The final progress check will take place from Friday 19th March to Friday 30th April. The timetable for these assessments will be communicated after February half-term.

Effective revision support

In preparation, thorough revision is essential if students are to be successful in any assessment. We recommend that revision is completed over an extended period of time to give the best possible experience and outcome. Please use your 'Guide to Effective Revision' resources that were shared with you to support your Mock Examinations in December.

Your subject teachers will continue to upload revision material directly into your subject Google Classroom pages. Please ensure that you utilise the time in live lessons to ask any questions that you have or to clear up any misconceptions.

Finally

We plan to provide an update as to how you are all progressing within each of your subjects before Easter. We will therefore upload to Progresso before Easter an updated subject report for each of you. Your parents/carers will be able to login on this and see the latest progress report for you. This will outline the current grade that you are working at for each of your subjects. These are not your final centre assessed grades.

It is essential that you continue to engage with your teachers, to showcase the level at which you are capable of working, so that we can ensure that you are provided with the A Level Grades that you deserve in the end.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Rodgers
Assistant Principal