

29 January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Update on return to college**

Many parents / carers will have heard the disappointing but perhaps not unexpected news on Wednesday from the Prime Minister, that schools and colleges will not be able to reopen to all students after the February half-term, **but could do so from 8th March** at the earliest. This date will depend on many factors, including the reduction of the incidence of COVID 19.

Boris Johnson has indicated that it is the Government's intention to set out a plan of how lockdown will be eased and the criteria involved at the end of February. Currently, a key priority for the Government is to get schools and colleges open again as soon as it is safe to do so as lockdown restrictions begin to lift.

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education has spoken openly to the press this week about school and college reopening. He has stated that the Government wanted to give schools and colleges "as much notice as possible" of full reopenings. He added: "We will obviously make that decision as close to the point as possible, making sure teachers, schools, staff, pupils all have two weeks' notice in order to be able to prepare and get ready."

As soon as we receive an announcement about a planned opening we will write to parents and students immediately. In the meantime we will continue to work with unrelenting commitment to maintain high quality lessons that are both challenging and supportive for every individual student.

The S6C Hub will remain open for our students that are accessing support in college after February half-term, as they are now.

### **Data Capture Assessment week for year 12 - 1st February**

Year 12 students will have their planned data capture assessments during lesson time next week. Students should know when these are scheduled from the dialogue they are having with their class teachers. They will be scheduled in Google Classroom and staff will instruct students at the start of their assessment.

### **Assessment plans for Year 13 Mock week 22nd February**

The week of 22nd February is scheduled for our Year 13 mock week. Students and staff have been working hard and preparing for these assessments expecting to be back in college taking

multiple papers in each A Level subject that week. With further delays returning to college we have had to modify our approach to provide a meaningful assessment opportunity from home.

The Faculty Leaders have reflected carefully on how we maintain this progress review, and build on the formative assessment happening regularly in class from class tests and marking of work that has been ongoing throughout the lockdown since the November mocks. We have decided that our approach in Mock week has to be supportive, and has to allow students the opportunity to complete a full assessment in each A Level subject with the exception of Fine Art and Photography where the summer requirements are different. Students are keen to know - 'Am I making expected progress?', 'Am I developing my skills effectively?', and sitting one full paper in each subject is going to give them this confirmation of progress.

### **So what does this Assessment week look like for Year 13 students'?**

- Students will sit one full assessment per A Level subject that has been timetabled into a revised timetable for the week
- The paper will typically be between 2 to 3 hours as expected for the examination board and will be marked and graded on the evidence of knowledge and skills for those examination questions
- Students will have their assessments set in Google Classroom and staff will instruct students at the start of each assessment
- The paper will assess the progress students have made in the curriculum content they have covered so far in the course
- Students need to embrace this as a **progress marker** - because that is what it is There will still be gaps but there is time to continue to develop and improve before the summer
- Students with **extra time will be given this** as usual to allow for fairness in their experience of completing the questions
- Students will receive high quality feedback that allows them to address gaps in knowledge and skills that still need refining in preparation for summer 'Tests' (We are awaiting confirmation as to whether this will be a Test set by the exam board)
- Students need to have confirmation if they have made solid improvements since the December mocks, and if not, they have time to accelerate and make improvements needed before the summer 'Test'
- **A level taught lessons will not be scheduled during the week.** Instead asynchronous activities will be set by the class teacher. These will be scheduled to be live on Google Classroom from Monday 22nd February and will consist of 4 - 5 hours of **consolidation tasks** to revise content already taught in year 12 and 13
- Teaching staff will be contactable throughout the week on Google Chat to support any consolidation work being completed or to assist in assessment preparations
- Year 13 Vocational technical qualifications will run lessons as normal

If you think that sitting the assessments at home is going to be problematic, please do let us know. The Faculty Leaders can review and support any concerns you may have.

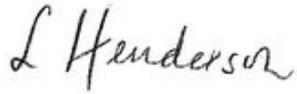
### **What can students do to achieve the very best grade?**

It is essential that students continue to attend all of their online lessons as well as completing all work to the best of their ability. High levels of motivation and engagement with remote learning are key, allowing students to focus on building their knowledge and refining their skills.

Once we return to face to face teaching we will review the Data Capture cycle again and respond accordingly, in the best interest of the students.

Thank you for your continued support. The timetable schedule is attached below.

Yours faithfully,



Louise Henderson  
**Vice Principal**

## Schedule of the Mock Timetable 22nd - 26th February 2021

Most students will have the standard time allocated for the paper. Students that have access arrangements that include extra time are encouraged to utilise all of that extra time (indicated in brackets). Likewise, students who require rest breaks should take these where needed.

	9am	12.45
Monday 22nd	Law - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)  Chemistry - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)	English Literature - 2hrs 30 (+ 38 mins extra time)  Film Studies - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)
Tuesday 23rd	Economics - 2 hours ((+30 mins extra time)  Geog 2hrs 30 (+ 38 mins extra time)  Sociology - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)  Psychology - clashes x 3 (with History) - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)	Psychology - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)  GCSE Maths 1 hour 30 minutes (+23 mins extra time)  History - 2hrs 30 (extra 3 hours 8 mins)
Wednesday 24th	RS - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)  Further Maths - 1 hour 30 minutes (+23 mins extra time)  Biology 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)	Business Studies - 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)  Biology - clashes x 2 (with RS)- 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)
Thursday 25th	English Language - 2hrs 30 (extra 3 hours 8 mins)  Physics 2 hours (+30 mins extra time)	
Friday 26th	Maths - 1 hour 30 minutes (+23 mins extra time)  Core Maths - 1 hour 30 minutes (+23 mins extra time)	