

Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students - Key Information

Dear parents and students,

Following the announcement from OFQUAL regarding this summer's examinations and discussions at various levels within the school, we would like to provide you with clarity regarding some of your FAQ's and key information pertaining to the remainder of this academic year for students in these year groups.

How are Centre Assessment Grades being generated at EC?

As a school we have produced an action plan to support teachers in awarding students a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had there been no disruption to their learning and had they sat their examination this year and completed any non-exam assessment. In order to do this, we have taken into account the following guidance provided by OFQUAL and any supplementary information that we have received from the relevant exam boards. Our senior leadership team are working closely with heads of departments and classroom teachers to assess a wide range of information, some of which includes:

- Performance over the course of study
- Progress review data
- Classwork
- Non-exam assessment (even if this has not been completed)
- Performance of any assessments & mock exams
- Tier of entry in tiered subjects
- AS results in that subject (Year 13 students only)
- Previous grades if re-sitting
- Participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- Any other relevant information

The centre assessment grade will be accompanied by a student ranking; this rank will be the order of students sharing the same grade within a specific subject; this is aimed at showing which students are most secure within that grade. This process has already begun and will be checked at various levels and will be scrutinised at every level prior to any submission to the exam boards - we are awaiting confirmation of the window, for which this data will need to be submitted.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

Will we be doing assessments this term?

Yes. To finalise the year and provide students with closure to their respective years, we will be running online assessments for two weeks with years 11, 12 and 13 from Sunday 10th May to Thursday 21st May. Students will be given a manageable assessment timetable early next week and will also be provided with a study week from Sunday 3rd May in order to have time to prepare for these assessments. Please note that during the study week teachers will be available within the students regular timetabled lessons.

Why are lessons still being delivered, and why are we doing assessments?

The answer to this question is three-fold;

1. We can. The issues and challenges facing UK schooling are not shared with us here, we are well placed both with infrastructure and existing learning platforms to complete the courses. We strongly believe that the students should finish what they have started. The effort and commitment they have shown over two years deserves the opportunity to reach a conclusion - and we will offer this.
2. Ongoing preparation. For Year 11 students going onto post-16 courses, there will be a need for the foundation knowledge and learning skills that are supplied through the GCSE courses. As a result, the completion and delivery of the GCSE courses will put the students in a solid position for their future educational journey. This is also true for our older students as they look to enter post 18 education in a variety of different contexts, building upon the knowledge and understanding they have gained throughout their courses.
3. Autumn examinations. The third reason is one I hope we do not have to use. Our own internal data shows how well placed the students are to continue their education each with a solid result set, however, these are unprecedented times and we need to ensure that students are well prepared for any future eventuality. OFQUAL have shared that there will be a 'safety net' in relation to student appeals - this will likely be the sitting of exams in the Autumn term; therefore students need to not only complete the course content but also have experience of tackling the summative assessment.

Timeline

Week Beginning	Activity	Guided
12th April	Course delivery and preparation for assessments (Years 11, 12 and 13) Sixth Form Options meetings with Year 11 students begin	Staff delivered
19th April	Course delivery and preparation for assessments week (Years 11, 12 and 13) Sixth Form option blocks are finalised	Staff delivered
Ramadan expected to start on 23rd April and the school day will be shortened to 8:30 - 13:30		
26th April	Course delivery and preparation for assessments (Years 11, 12 and 13)	Staff delivered
3rd May	Study Leave for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students	
10th May	Assessment Weeks for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students	
17th May		
24th May (Eid Al Fitr to fall during this week)	Year 11 - Begin A Level bridging courses Year 12 students - Begin to cover Year 13 content Year 13 - Begin Life skills Sessions	Staff delivered
31st May	End of Year reports for Year 11, Year 12 & Year 13 to be issued	
18th June	Last Day For Year 13 students	
14th June	Election week for Head Boy and Head Girl	
28th June Last week of term	Admin/Graduation Events and Awards Assemblies	

- For Year 11 students – these assessments will help support student suitability of the A-Level/BTEC courses, and to ensure skills coverage for any potential exams in Autumn term.
- For Year 13 students – Students will sit assessments in the majority of their subjects, to ensure skills coverage for any potential exams in Autumn term.

What will assessments look like?

In addition to the points mentioned regarding the purpose of these assessments, it is important to note the following statement highlighted in the OFQUAL guidance:

There is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance.

Due to the rigorous distance learning course that we at the English College have implemented, we believe that work completed during this period could provide additional evidence to support students working at a grade borderline; we would only use assessment data from term 3 to support students in a positive way.

These assessments are designed to assess or exemplify the learning skills/objectives within each subject. It is not expected that any of these assessments will be in the form of a Formal GCSE/A-Level examination paper – there will be a variety of activities that will provide students with evidence and paperwork that will be useful in the event of sitting an Autumn exam, or continuing their studies. There will be a variety of assessments, with a **maximum** time limit of **90 minutes**/assessment.

We are expecting to use the technology that is available to us, as such assessments may be completed online, by hand or even recordings of audio. This is a change from the normal assessment week, we are not looking to give a summative grade on current performance, but rather providing preparation tools for their further studies, and also ensuring that students will be well placed to complete assessments in the autumn series if this were required.

We do recognise the challenges of completing this through distance learning, consequently, we will ensure that the timetable will have identified slots for each subject - with full details on the contents to be covered and the style of assessment. We will share this with students on the 20th of April.

Warm regards,

Osman Idris

Head of Senior School



Our Values are: Collaboration - Aspiration - Respect - Excellence - Responsibility