



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Formal Assessment Update

Firstly, we would like to share how well the vast majority of students have returned to school and have continued to work diligently throughout March – we are very proud of how quickly they have adapted back to being on the school site and the excellent attitude they have shown towards their studies.

Shortly after the Easter holiday students in Year 11 will begin their Formal Assessment period. We want the assessments and the time leading up to these to be taken seriously and ensure our students are fully prepared so they have the opportunity to demonstrate exactly what they are capable of. Whilst this assessment period is important, we need to remember that although it is a major factor, it is not the only piece of evidence we will use when deciding the awarding grades.

The assessment period and timetable have been carefully constructed to strike a balance between allowing the school to capture the crucial evidence we require to confidently award the correct grades; to ensure the assessments are fair and to give all students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, but also takes into consideration the recent experience of schooling the students in Year 11 have had.

Please see the timetable below which details plans for the Formal Assessment period:

	Morning Assessments	Afternoon Assessments
Monday 26 April	English Language	
Tuesday 27 April	English Literature	Physics
Wednesday 28 April	History or Geography	
Thursday 29 April	Science Trilogy or Biology	Chemistry
Friday 30 April	Mathematics	

Unlike the November mock exams, timings for the school day will remain the same as normal, meaning there will be no need to make alternative arrangements for the start and end of school. During the week beginning 26 April, there will be no more assessments other than the ones listed above. This will enable students to fully focus on these assessments. There will be revision lessons taught throughout the school day across the week that are specifically designed to help students for their next assessment.

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Although there are some elements of these assessments that are similar to examinations, these are certainly not examinations. For example, today your child will have been given the pre-release information from their English teachers regarding some of the content that will appear in their assessment. This would not be the case if we were to run exams or mock exams. We encourage you to talk to your child about these assessments and ensure that they are aware of what they are being assessed on.

This link <http://heanorgate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Assessment-Information-y11.pdf> takes you to part of our school website containing further information about the content specific assessments. This information would be an excellent conversation starter to discuss what your child needs to revise to be successful over the coming weeks.

Prior to the Formal Assessment week, there will also be a small number of in-class assessments for subjects studied that are not listed above. These assessments will take place on Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 and Friday 23 April. All of the information regarding the in-class assessments will be shared with students prior to the Easter break up. Students need to ensure they are organised for all of these assessments and we are helping by providing personalised timetables that they will receive on Wednesday 31 March. We recommend putting this up in either a bedroom or kitchen to aid with all assessment preparation.

During the period after the assessments, teachers and the school will be able to share the percentage mark with individuals but they will not be able to share or discuss grades with any students or parents. The percentage mark will need to be moderated by the Spencer Academies Trust and this is a substantial process meaning that even teachers will not know the grades students achieved in these assessments for a number of weeks. After these assessments learning will not only continue but will be as important as ever, as this period of time will continue to be vital to us as a school in helping to obtain further evidence to award grades.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Mr D Hudson

Vice Principal

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