

Aspiration  
Respect  
Endeavour

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Roding Valley  
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school, we are very aware that our Year 11 students have been out of school for a significant period during the lockdown and were taught remotely during the last part of their Year 10 studies. This autumn term has been very positive for the Year 11 curriculum, but they are now all at home self-isolating and again being taught remotely. All of this is beyond any of our control, but I totally appreciate that this may be concerning. Can I reassure you that we will continue to offer a full curriculum and support to all our Year 11 students and work with them to ensure that they achieve the best possible outcomes and access to the next stage in their education, whether that be 6th Form, college or an apprenticeship.

### **Behaviour, Safeguarding and Expectations Update:**

All Year 11 are currently remotely accessing their curriculum via live lessons and work set via Google classroom. Please do note the update to our [Behaviour and Expectations Policy Addendum](#) as it is important that these lessons are operated with the same high expectations and regard to safeguarding that we would in school. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we will take a zero tolerance approach to any disruption to learning and deliberate misbehaviour online. Students will be asked to leave immediately and it would be recorded in line with our behaviour policy as a Positive Action for Learning 3 - removal from a lesson. Persistent misbehaviour would result in exclusion from live lessons for the rest of their time with us.

Our online security measures mean that people from outside of our school community cannot access our live lessons. To further enhance this security and safeguarding measure it is important that all students understand their responsibility not to share the links with any individual from outside the school community or, indeed, students from outside their class.

We are grateful for your continued support with our online provision and have been incredibly grateful for the positive feedback we have received from a number of parents and carers highlighting how hard our staff are working to provide a quality education in these difficult circumstances.

### **Update regarding public examinations 2020-2021**

The government has today issued a statement which informs us all of their plans to further support students ahead of next summer's exams. You can read the full guidance by clicking on this [link](#). This confirms the exams will be going ahead and there are going to be reasonable adjustments made. These adjustments are in recognition of the disruption that some students have received nationally to their education during the pandemic.

These will include:



- A three-week delay to the start of the exams
- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- Exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

**Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:**

*“Exams are the best way of giving young people the opportunity to show what they can do which is why it’s so important they take place next summer.*

*But this isn’t business as usual. I know students are facing unprecedented disruption to their learning. That’s why exams will be different next year, taking exceptional steps to ensure they are as fair as possible.*

*I am determined to support students, parents and teachers in these unprecedented times and hope measures like more generous grading and advance notice of some topic areas will give young people the clarity and confidence they need to achieve every success.”*

Recently, you will have received your child’s report that highlighted how their autumn assessments had gone and what their teachers are currently predicting they will achieve in the summer exams. These assessments were short and each subject only had one paper, to identify how students were progressing and any gaps that needed to be addressed. We will do everything we can to ensure that your child achieves the best that they can in the summer exams, that the government has said very clearly, will go ahead.

All of you will be considering your next step after Year 11 and completing your application to Sixth Form. The grades on your report are only an indication and I encourage you all to apply for the subjects that you want to study and not to worry at this point as to whether you are a grade short or not quite reaching the 42 points entry requirement. As I said above, we will do everything we can to ensure that you achieve your potential and ultimately we will use the professional judgement of the subject leaders to support your transition into our sixth form. If you have not yet visited our virtual sixth form open evening and require more information, you can see it [here](#).

As you may be aware, some subjects have seen changes to what will be examined in the summer of 2021 and below is a summary of these changes. Ofqual have decided after consultation, that there will be no changes to Maths, Religious Studies, or Sociology.

Subject	Changes
Art and Photography	Assessment will be based on portfolio only, with exam boards permitted to carry out moderation of photographic or digital portfolios.
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science	Pupils will be able to cover required apparatus and techniques through observations of demonstrations or simulations.
Computer Science	Pupils will be allowed to undertake their programming project in unsupervised time.
Drama	<p>Live performance will be satisfied through “streamed or recorded performances”, and exam boards will be able to accept “alternative evidence” to illustrate pupils’ intended devised performance.</p> <p>For text-based performances, exam boards will be allowed to accept either a complete and unedited audio-visual recording or a “presentation of each discrete aspect/each student’s individual contribution”.</p> <p>For both NEA elements, participation in a monologue will be permitted. Exam boards will “provide clarification” about their requirements.</p>
English Language	<p>There will be no requirement for recordings of spoken language assessment for exam board monitoring.</p> <p>Instead, the assessment will be allowed to take place before a single teacher representing an “audience”. Spoken assessments can also be taken at any time during the course and “by virtual means”.</p>
English Literature	<p>Schools will be given a choice of topics on which students have to answer questions in exams.</p> <p>A Shakespeare play and unseen poetry will make up a “minimum common core”, which all pupils will be assessed on, and schools will be able to choose two more options from Anthology poetry, 19th century novel and fiction/drama from the British Isles from 1914.</p> <p>However, the document states that exam boards can add to the core “if they wish”.</p>
Geography	Schools will no longer have to make a written statement declaring that pupils have been given the opportunity to undertake two days of fieldwork.

	<p>Pupils will also not have to answer questions in the exam relating to their own fieldwork experience.</p>
History	<p>Schools will be given a choice of topics on which students have to answer questions in exams.</p> <p>As with English literature, there will be a core topic identified for each specification, but schools will have choices beyond that.</p>
Media studies	<p>Exam boards will be allowed to accept a prototype or mock-up, with supporting evidence, of an individual media production in response to an exam board set brief.</p>
Modern Foreign Languages	<p>Ofqual is removing the requirement for assessments to use words outside vocabulary lists, and will “permit glossing where necessary whilst maintaining level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades”.</p> <p>The spoken-language assessment will be an endorsement reported on a three-point scale (pass, merit, distinction) and will be assessed by teachers during the course of study.</p> <p>Exam boards will also be allowed to include an additional optional question in the writing assessment “which would enable students to focus on fewer themes in their writing”.</p>
Music	<p>For the performance assessment, there will be no requirement for pupils to perform as part of an ensemble. Pupils will need to submit a complete and unedited recording of their live performances, and the score or lead sheet for that performance “where available”.</p> <p>For the composition assessment, the composition may be in response to an exam board brief or freely-composed, and pupils will have to submit a “complete recording” of their composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition produced by the pupil.</p> <p>However, the pupil does not have to perform their own compositions, and recordings may be computer-generated.</p>
Physical Education	<p>Exam boards will be allowed to reduce their requirements to just two activities, and allow both to be individual. Remote moderation of video evidence will be permitted for all activities.</p> <p>Boards have also been told they can explore relaxation of requirements for provision of evidence “for example, type and quality</p>

of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport”.

For the short course, the changes will be the same as above, except the requirement will be reduced to just one individual activity.

I trust this will go some way to offering some reassurances as well alleviating any immediate concerns you may have at this moment in time. Please do get in touch should you have any further concerns or queries.

Kind regards



Sharon Jenner  
Headteacher