



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Year 11 Important Information: Support and Assessment Road map

We trust that you are all keeping well and thank you for your continued support during this difficult period. We appreciate how hard it is for the students to remain motivated whilst being concerned over their summer grades. All initial feedback is that the Year 11s have been excellent and working really hard at home. They have shown great resilience and we are all very proud of their conduct and effort. It is so important that we all continue to reassure them that we will do everything that we can to ensure that they are awarded fair grades, which will provide them with the access to their appropriate post 16 pathway. This may be Sixth Form with college, an apprenticeship or us.

As we approach the end of this half term, the purpose of this letter is to highlight a number of important issues and support mechanisms that we would like to bring to your attention. There is also a section regarding the collection/ posting of provided revision materials for Year 11 students.

### Assessment Roadmap

The DFE consultation on how grades will be awarded has not yet been finalised. Despite that, the one golden thread is that the grades awarded will have to be based on sound evidence.

It will be essential to ensure that we can evidence not only their grade but also that they did not have any outside support when providing work that we will evaluate as part of awarding a grade.

We are hopeful that students in the exam groups will be back in school at some date after the 8<sup>th</sup> March but before the Easter holiday. This is obviously not yet finalised by the government but we want to give advance notice of our initial plans. Should schools not reopen, or exam groups brought back, then we will put in alternative plans to assess the students.

Students will sit a set of Pre Public Exams (PPEs) starting in week beginning **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**. The PPEs will continue after the Easter holiday. These exams will be comprehensive and closely mimic an actual exam but will be bespoke to each subject area. This should allow students to clearly demonstrate their understanding of a subject to date. Students will receive detailed areas of revision, the structure of the paper and extensive support in advance of these PPEs.

Once the outcomes of the consultation are received, there could also be a further Exam Board supplied paper/papers in late May. This will however be decided once the outcome of the consultation is known. We will keep you informed.



It was fortuitous that we did an early PPE in Year 11 as this provides a baseline and will aid in evaluating a student's progress over time. We obviously also have a full assessment profile of each student over time from the start of their learning journey with us.

The principle in awarding grades is that students will be awarded the highest possible grade that can clearly be evidenced against a recognised standard.

We will ensure that each subject makes it very clear to students which future pieces of work may be considered as part of the assessment roadmap that we will share with you, once the consultation is published. Work that is conducted under supervision or with recognised exam criteria could be used as evidence. This is certainly not to raise anxiety but needs to be considered by students when completing tasks. All written subjects can use google to check for plagiarism, which will mean that remote work could be included, even if ultimately given a lower weighting.

To reiterate, we will share with the students an assessment roadmap for every subject once the consultation is complete. This will clearly show the intended evidence base for the awarding of the teacher assessed grades.

***Please note all the following additional support that we will be offering your child to support in this process:***

### **Revision Guide Collection**

We recognise that your son/daughter is at an important stage of their GCSE journey. To help support them with the revision process, we have put together a comprehensive revision pack to provide them with necessary guides, workbooks and resources to help them with the revision load. Each Year 11 student will be provided with:

1. ***English Language Guide***
2. ***English Literature Guide- Macbeth***
3. ***Maths Workbook- appropriate to their tier***
4. ***Maths Guide- appropriate to their tier***
5. ***Science guides- Triple & Combined appropriate***
6. ***French/Spanish Guide***
7. ***A resource sheet containing links and directions on where to access guides that have already previously been handed out- or are accessible for free online in all other GCSE subjects.***
8. ***Cue cards***
9. ***Highlighter***
10. ***Maths practice exam papers***

We estimate that this package would retail at just over **£50.00**. We are providing these guides **free of charge** to all students to support them with their learning. These will be partly funded from the COVID catch up funding that we expect to receive. We really hope they make good use of them.

We would like to get these packs to our Year 11 students, as quickly as possible to support them with upcoming assessments and PPEs. We have given you a collection window, below, that outlines the date and time of which to come to school and collect.

Please collect your guides on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February** between **11.30am and 12.30pm** . **This may be during a live lesson, but your teachers know that you will be coming on site to collect your guides. It is important that you only collect during this allocated time.** You must enter the school via the Brook Road entrance, where a member of staff

will direct you to the collection point on the playground. You/ child will then collect your guides from a table outside and leave the site straight away. It is important that students who do attend recognise **that this is not a social event and strict adherence to social distancing will be enforced**. Students will hand sanitise and if there is a need to queue, will wait at 2 metre spaced cones. This invite is purely to collect core, essential, GCSE revision material and must be done in line with all other COVID safety guidelines. Students would be expected to wear a face-covering when entering the school site.

COVID restrictions state that travel can be made for educational purposes. However, if you do not wish your child to travel for this collection purpose, then please contact [plarkin@rodingvalley.net](mailto:plarkin@rodingvalley.net). We will then arrange for your guides to be posted with a charge of £15.00. This charge will be made payable via ParentPay on request. If your child is in receipt of Free School meals or you are experiencing any hardship, please contact us and we will support you with the postage and packaging costs if your child is unable to collect the resources. If you or your child cannot collect during your designated collection date or time, then please contact [plarkin@rodingvalley.net](mailto:plarkin@rodingvalley.net)

We must finally stress that once students/ parents have collected their revision guides, they must **leave the site immediately and return home safely**.

### **Pause and Reflect Week**

A regular part of our normal teaching practice would be to stop at certain stages and reflect on what has been taught and judge the understanding that students have gained.

The week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February, subjects will stop teaching new content and reflect on the content that has been taught this academic year and especially during the lockdown period. Staff will use the lesson time to recap key topics but will also do that by using a variety of our RVHS revision techniques that will support in preparing for any future assessments.

It is essential that students take the time and try a variety of these techniques, and in the end decide which ones suit their learning style best. Please see the school [website](#) for details of our RVHS revision techniques.

Becoming independent learners that possess a variety of skills to support their learning are key to their long-term success.

There will also be a number of parent forums during that week to ensure that parents are aware how they can support their child.

This week will be followed by an assessment week where students will be assessed in a number of subjects. Please note that all live lessons will still take place, as normal, but that the content of these live lessons will be delivered around our pause and reflect focus.

### **Parent Forums**

We recognise that remote learning has been a difficult process for many students and parents. To help support this, we are holding a series of 'Parent forums' on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February between 5:00pm-6.30pm**.

The parent forums will be on the topics below and will be carried out via **Google Meet** (the platform that your child uses to access their live lessons). This forum will be carried out live. There will be an opportunity to ask questions via the Google Meet chat box- and the host will endeavour to answer as many questions that arise as possible. We please ask that you arrive in the Google Meet with microphones and cameras off.

## Session Topics:

1. **Support with Self-directed Assignments - 5:00pm** (20 minutes)
2. **Preparation for Assessment Week + RVHS Revision Techniques – 5:20pm**
3. **Support with Remote Learning During Live Lessons (Raising engagement) - 5.40pm**
4. **Online Safety - Modern-day Risks – 6:00pm**
5. **SEND Parent Support with our SENDco: Starts at 5:00pm. This runs alongside the other sessions. This session is by invitation only.**

We will send the individual Google Meet links for each of the above calls nearer the forum date. You can decide which topics are applicable to you and you do not need to attend all of the sessions. We look forward to welcoming lots of our parents to these forums.

## Assessment Week

The week beginning **1<sup>st</sup> March 2021** will be an Assessment Week; each subject area will share their assessment schedule with their students.

The format of assessments will vary between subjects but will be shared with students during the **Pause and Reflect Week**. The focus of the assessment will mostly be on content taught during the lockdown period but may contain some topics that were taught earlier in the academic year.

This assessment is essential, as it will play a significant role in shaping our teaching for the remainder of the course.

**It is essential that every student has access to a computer/ laptop to be able to complete this assessment. Please contact the Year Progress Leader if your child does not have access to their own computer/ laptop**

**Support with how to access live worksheets (helpful for when completing live assessments):** During your assessment week, and potentially during lots of other live lessons, your child will be asked to access a number of 'live worksheets' to complete their assessment in 'real-time'. This allows the teacher to see what the students are doing and give them feedback straight away. Some students have struggled during the live lessons to access these worksheets. There is a helpful [video](#) to help you on this, should you need it.

## Stationary & Exercise Books

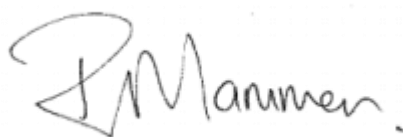
There is a [flyer](#) that has been emailed to all students regarding purchasing stationery/ exercise books from our school stationery shop. Our stationary & exercise book bundles are all available to order and pay for via Parent Pay. Please note - we acknowledge that we would not normally charge for exercise books; the prices that you see for packages that include exercise books do not incur a charge for these items - they only have a charge applied for postage, packaging and admin.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this unprecedented time.

Yours faithfully



Mrs. S Jenner  
Headteacher



Mr. R Mammen  
Deputy Headteacher