



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

16 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Year 11 Assessment- Summer 2021

I hope you and your family are well and that your son/daughter has enjoyed coming back into school. I am writing to you today to confirm our assessment approach in light of the pandemic and government changes to assessment this academic year.

We know this last year will have been a stressful time for your child with important qualifications due to be completed this summer. We have taken advice from exam boards, unions and advisers to put together an approach we feel will provide every student the best opportunity to succeed.

The aims of our approach

- **Transparency**
We aim to communicate clearly and effectively with all students, families, and staff. This will include guidance on how students will be assessed and using what evidence, and when key evidence will be taken.
- **Equity**
We will seek to provide fair opportunities for all to succeed, taking into consideration special educational need, vulnerability, concessions, and the different experiences with remote and face-to-face education over the course of their GCSE and A-Level study.
- **Opportunity**
We want to give every child the opportunity to succeed. By supporting, challenging, and adjusting our curriculum we seek to assess all students fairly on what they have been able to learn. We will reserve final judgement to the latest possible stage to ensure students have the maximum time and opportunity to secure their grade.

A summary of our approach

Teachers will gather evidence for each student and decide upon the final grade per subject. The evidence used will be taken from throughout their course and up until the final stages of their study to allow all students maximum time and opportunity to succeed. Departments will submit grades which will be quality assured by the school. This internal quality assurance process will then be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Abingdon Learning Trust, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW

Evidence used will include mock exam papers, coursework, in-class assessments, and portfolios where relevant. In addition, we will be running an internal Summer Assessment fortnight where students will complete a number of exams in the hall. This will only apply to subjects where exams would normally take place and students will receive a timetable in advance. The Summer Assessment fortnight will take place 10th – 21st May.

We feel that by running an assessment fortnight we will be better equipped to provide reliable evidence to support our judgements and also give students the opportunity to revise and deliver their best possible outcomes. A combination of evidence sources will be used for each subject, including the results from the assessment fortnight where appropriate.

How each subject will assess

Each subject is different and assesses student outcomes in different ways. In Art, for example, students will be assessed entirely on their portfolio, while in Maths all evidence is gathered through examination. To clarify how each subject will assess student outcomes this year, we will publish a Subject Assessment Map per subject, which will be shared with all Year 11 students and families by the end of this term. The document will contain a summary of content and revision advice for each subject.

In addition, we would like to invite you to attend a virtual **Year 11 Information Evening** on Tuesday 23rd March. The event will include a talk from myself and Ms Pharoah further explaining the assessment process. The event will go live from 4.30pm on the school website but will be recorded to allow flexibility and the chance for you to watch with your child at an appropriate time. A link for the event will be sent by email on Tuesday 23rd and will also be able to be found through the school website.

Following the event, if you have questions relating to the process or specific subjects please email office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk who will pass your concern on to myself or the relevant member of staff. There will also be opportunities in lessons and form time for the process to be discussed.

We hope that this information provides you with some clarity and reassurance regarding the assessment process during these unprecedented times. In the meantime, the best thing students can do is to continue to attend classes, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, revise, and read around their subject. Their grade will be based on their performance, and so their outcomes are ultimately in their hands.

Yours sincerely,



Alicia Corley
Deputy Head of School

