

Internal Assessments

Dear Pupils,

Following discussion, your internal assessments are scheduled to take place during Week 7 this term. Deliberately we have not referred to this week as 'Exams Week' as we appreciate that this is not going to work the same way this year. We feel that 'assessment' is a more apt term than 'exam' as the purpose of these assessments is to establish how well you have understood what you have learnt online. It will be unusual to complete assessments online and we are keen to reduce stress and anxiety surrounding these, therefore, I have set out below what you can expect if the assessments:

- Week 6 after half-term will involve teacher-led revision so this will help your preparation.
- You should do some revision over half term, but not huge amounts as you have Week 6 to prepare also. You might follow your prep schedule (or weekly prep allocation per subject if in the Lower Sixth) as an initial guideline for the amount of time you could spend on revision – this is less than usual and should give you lots of time to relax during the break.
- In terms of predicted grades, setting and UCAS predictions, teachers will use a range of material as well as internal assessments to determine grades. This will include, classwork, prep, assignments etc in the same way as these have been used for GCSE and A Level predictions this summer. The internal assessments will not be the be-all-and-end-all to predictions.
- The Lower Sixth will have a revision day on the Wednesday of the internal assessment week, so this will provide a break. The 4th Form will have 3 revision slots and Remove 5 revision slots when they don't have assessments during the week, except for those pupils taking two languages who will have one fewer.
- 4th Form and Remove assessments will be up to 1 hour per subject.
- For the Lower Sixth subjects will have up to 2 x 2 hour slots for their assessments.
- Some subjects might choose to use 'open book' exams, if this is the case they will give you instructions to follow for the assessment.
- Pupils who are entitled to extra time will receive it.
- Class teachers will be online during exams and will start and end exams. They will also be contactable throughout exams if you have any questions.
- Teachers will take into account you are doing these exams online, so please don't worry about this.
- We will need to trust you to complete the assessments honestly and following the guidelines given to you by departments. For the reasons given above it is important that you do this so that we have a clear understanding of your knowledge and what we need to help you with in the coming weeks.

I hope that the information outlined above gives you an understanding of the unusual nature of the assessments that will take place in Week 7 and why we are setting these. Please don't worry about these; the emphasis is very much on what you know and what we can do to help you to improve in the future.

I hope that you have an enjoyable half-term.

Kind regards,

Mr Hole

