



12 May 2021

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

Normally, at this time of the year we would be writing to you about the start of formal GCSE exams and all the arrangements for Year 11 students taking their exams this summer. This year things are significantly different, but we are approaching the point where Year 11 students are completing their internal GCSE assessments and thus nearing the end of their time at Graham School.

The past few weeks have been incredibly intense for Year 11 students and their teachers and those supporting them. We have been really impressed with the commitment and effort put in by our students in completing assessments to provide evidence for their Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in each of their subjects. We will be completing the process of marking, collating and grading these assessments in the coming weeks. Before half term, students will be signing a declaration for each of their subjects to confirm that the work is their own. They will see which work is being submitted as evidence and the marks for that work, but their overall grade cannot be shared with them. Results will be published on Thursday 12 August for all subjects. Students will be invited to school to collect their results on that day. Further information about Results Day will be sent to you in due course. Detailed information about all aspects of the TAGs process can be found here: [Guidance for students, parents and guardians: GCSEs and AS/A Levels in England Summer 2021](#)

We expect most assessments to be completed by the end of this half term. However, for some students, due to absence from school or because of a period of Covid-19 self-isolation, assessments will not be complete. The Year 11 timetable will continue to run until Friday 11 June to allow for all students to complete assessments. Students who have assessments to complete, must attend lessons as required until that date. Teachers will communicate with you/your children to confirm which lessons they need to attend.

The Department for Education guidance for school attendance for Year 11 students is as follows: *'Pupils cease to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday of June in the year in which they turn 16. This means that those pupils (most of whom will be in Year 11) are not required to attend school after this date.'*

This date is Friday 25 June which means that YEAR 11 students will not be expected to attend school after this date. **The exception to this, as mentioned above, will be students who have assessments to complete to go towards their TAGs.** Once these are complete your child will no longer have to attend school. In line with DfE guidance, in the three weeks following half term, beginning on Monday 7 June, we will provide a range of activities to support students in preparing for the next stage in their education. Full details of these activities will be shared with you before half term and will be posted on our website. They will include bridging materials to support transition to A level or other post 16 study and careers based activities. We will also maintain pastoral support through phone calls and/or drop in sessions in school.

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As most assessments will be completed by half term we are planning a celebration for Year 11 students on Thursday 27 May (Friday 28 May is a staff training day). Lessons will finish after period 4 for a special leavers assembly with presentations. This will be followed by a 'Hog Roast' with photos and fun and a few special surprises! The event will finish at 5pm. All Year 11 students are invited to what will be a great way to mark their final day at school. We are looking forward to celebrating with them.

Key dates are summarised below:

Date	
Monday 10 May - Thursday 27 May	Assessments continue
Thursday 27 May	Leavers celebration until 5pm
Monday 7 June - Friday 25 June	Assessments if required due to absence / covid isolation. Online materials available to support transition to post 16
Friday 25 June	Final day of compulsory school education (DfE)
Thursday 12 August	Results Day

If you have any questions at all about any of the arrangements for the coming weeks please do not hesitate to contact Mr Smythe at school ([m.smythe@gra.hlt.academy](mailto:m.smythe@gra.hlt.academy))

Thank you again, for your continued support through what has been a particularly challenging year or so for us all. When your children started their GCSE courses, we could not have predicted what lay ahead. They have been resilient throughout and adapted to the ever changing demands presented by the pandemic. The work they complete in the remaining few weeks will support them in preparing for their next chosen steps. Thank you for encouraging them to give their best at all times.

Yours faithfully

Emma Robins  
Principal