

23 June 2020

Dear parents/carers

YEAR 12 ASSESSMENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

I wanted to write to you to set out some reassurances with regards to the Year 12 assessments this half term as I understand that the announcement of these last week has understandably caused some unrest. I have moved from calling them mocks to assessments as students have said this makes them feel 'less of a big deal' but nonetheless we do want students to prepare for them properly.

During the assembly on Monday 22 June, I explained the following key messages to students. Firstly, we do not want them to worry too much about these assessments. Our intention in introducing these was not to create panic. I accept we haven't given them a great deal of notice to prepare, but I know from experience most students do not revise very effectively until a couple of weeks before the mocks anyway as they are still busy covering subject content.

We feel that these assessments are really important to assess students' current progress and show us the level at which they are currently working. The assessments will help identify any gaps in their understanding and allow students to show us how hard they have been working, because we know the vast majority really have stepped up in the current difficult circumstances.

Teaching staff will be in touch with students to explain the format of their assessments. They may even be in a position to tell students which topics are being assessed. I have left this entirely in the hands of subject teachers because they know best and I am confident they will make their assessments meaningful.

The assessment papers will be a mixture of formats, such as word documents, assignments through Teams or writing answers on paper, all which must be completed in the allotted time. With the move to using Zoom in lessons, staff may also supervise students, meaning cameras will need to be turned on so they can see what students are working on. Any student allowed additional time or further access arrangements will have these granted as normal.

Students will receive their timetables as soon as possible, but it is worth noting that during the assessment week the online lesson timetable will be suspended and students will only need to log in for their assessment slots, giving them a little more time to prepare. Some students will be invited into school to complete their assessments. We will practise social distancing and I will be in touch with these students in due course.

We understand that some students are concerned that the assessments will form the basis of their UCAS predicted grades, but these grades will not be the only thing we use. We will also take into consideration students' performances across the year to allow us to make the most realistic predictions. We are relaxing our UCAS deadlines in light of these assessments and will not be expecting drafts of personal statements until after the assessments are completed.

I hope this letter reassures you. We do not want to put students under unnecessary stress, but equally we need to gauge the levels at which they are currently working. Please do contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



H JENNINGS (Mrs), Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 info@lymmhigh.org.uk www.lymmhigh.org.uk

