

5th February 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 parents, carers and students,

We have had some questions raised by those in exam groups about upcoming assessment that will count towards final grades in different subjects. There seems to be a view that these assessments are in addition to revision, homework and regular learning for the different courses. We would like to assure everyone that this is not the case and that there should be no cause for concern.

Assessments that happen do count towards final grades but these should involve no extra work beyond the study that we recommend. We have high expectations for all, but the last thing we want to do is place more stress on students than would normally be the case before year 11 / 13 exams.

The purpose of these assessments is as follows:

- The current guidelines (though we are still waiting for final instructions from the government) is that grades should reflect work over the whole course.
- As discussed in the recent webinars, we will be asking students to sit in-school assessments shortly after school's reopen. These are part of the process for ensuring our criteria for awarding grades is robust. We want to reduce as much as we can the stress of these by allowing good work done previously to have an impact on final grades.
- These assessments are also a way of helping revision so we can get good feedback and help students who need extra help. Without this we feel that students might feel more stress on their return and during the in school assessments.
- Help develop the resilience students need to take the multiple mocks and other examinations they will need in their futures.

Everything we do is aimed at helping students do their best without putting them under any unnecessary stress or pressure. Our consistent advice for assessments beyond what we always expect students to be doing, and no extra work should be done. With student's mental health firmly in mind we are also asking teachers not to set extra homework over the half term holiday so students can get a good rest and have the space to catch up on anything they feel they need to catch up on.

With our best wishes at this difficult time.

Regards



Mr Hartley
Assistant Headteacher: Lead KS4



Ms Pinnick
Director of Sixth Form

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.

