

# Year 11 Progress Evening **FAQs**

## **How will I know what to focus on in the next few months?**

It would be completely understandable if students felt some nerves about the next few months—this would be true if they were taking exams too.

But I hope our students can feel reassured that their teachers have clear plans for what they will teach and how they will assess it. Please trust us that we will never try to catch students out; we only want to give them opportunities to show us the best quality of work they can produce.

Teachers will always give students advance notice of what they will be 'assessed' on and how. We will give them clear guidance about how to prepare for any assessment style pieces of work, guiding them on what to study through our teaching and homework.

The most important thing which students can do is to follow their teachers' instructions very carefully. If they work hard, complete the class and homework which they are set, and complete retrieval practice as directed by their teachers, they will have opportunities to secure the grades they deserve.

## **How do I know that the grade I receive will be fair?**

All schools across the country must follow the guidance laid down by the exam boards.

All individual assessments will be moderated to make sure that our marking is as accurate and consistent. The final grades awarded will also be moderated and discussed by teachers, Subject Leaders, Trust Lead Practitioners and the Senior Leadership Team. We will compare the grades we are awarding with results from previous years to check that we are not being unfairly harsh or lenient.

The exam boards have said that they will also check how schools are making their judgements. We may be required to show the exam boards the process we have used to make sure that the grades we award are fair.

## **Will I be able to ask my teachers for updates about what grade I am currently working at?**

No. The school is not able to discuss the final grades which we are going to award. This means that teachers also have to be careful about how much information they share with students about the level they think the student is working at.



Mr M Barrow  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Teachers will still, of course, plan their lessons to ensure that students continue to build on their knowledge and skills over time, giving them lots of general feedback about how they can improve their work.

But we ask students and parents to please let teachers decide what information they can share and when. To preserve the integrity of and safeguard the awarding process, parents and students must not try to negotiate, intervene or seek to influence teachers in anyway.

### **What will happen if I am absent for an assessment?**

As always, it is very important that students attend school. They should not be absent from school unless they absolutely have to be. The assessment style pieces of work are opportunities for students to show the level of work they are capable of.

However, we recognise that the pandemic is still ongoing. Students must follow the school and government guidelines in relation to COVID-19 and self-isolate if necessary.

If a student misses an assessment because they are following the guidelines, we will try to make sure they have an opportunity to catch up. If this isn't possible, teachers will be able take the circumstances into account when deciding students' final grades.

### **What can I do if I am concerned that my performance in an assessment was affected by extraordinary circumstances?**

All students have been affected to some degree by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there may be students who feel that their work has been particularly affected, for example because they missed the topic when it was originally taught due to being unwell with coronavirus or because they were following guidelines to self-isolate.

In almost all cases, teachers will already be aware of these circumstances when they award their final grades. Nevertheless, students will get the opportunity to remind us of any concerns they have before final grades are submitted.

### **What can I do if I think there has been a mistake with my grades?**

If a student thinks that the school may have made a mistake when awarding grades (for example, entering your grade incorrectly on our computer system), you can appeal to us and we will check.

### **What if I am not happy with my grades?**

We are committed to making sure that every student gets the grades that their work deserves.

But if a student feels this hasn't happened, there is an appeals process. The student can appeal to the school and, if they still feel a mistake has been made, they can appeal to the exam boards. The exam boards may decide to review whether the school has applied our procedures fairly.

Students need to be aware that grades could go down as well as up.