

20 April 2020

Y11 Summer 1 Update

Dear Y11 Parents & Students,

I hope you have managed to have a bit of a rest over Easter. Please note these important points about the Sum1 half term ahead.

Centre Assessed Grades

Ofqual (the organisation responsible for GCSEs) have issued guidance on how grades will be awarded and we wrote to you about this at the end of last half term. The key things for you to note are:

- **Teachers and Heads of Department will be assigning you grades based on a range of evidence from Y11 & Y10.** This will not just be your mock results, your NEA results, your targets or predicted grades. These will be important, but we will also look at classwork and homework. We will factor in the progress we expected you to make between March and the actual exams. We will do this fairly, and any student who is unhappy will be able to take an actual exam in the autumn to challenge the result.
- **We cannot discuss with you the grades, so please don't ask us.** The guidance explicitly bans us from doing so, and it would be illegal and risk everyone's grade if we did. You will find out your grade on results day - with everyone else in the UK.
- **You do not need to do any more work for your GCSE grades, and instead we are going to set different work to support your progression to Y12.** You should not worry if you didn't complete a March mock, for example. Any work you did in the two weeks before Easter or over the holiday is worthwhile and it's good to submit it, but candidates won't be disadvantaged if they didn't do this.

Further detail was in my letter from 3 April, as was the link to the letter direct from Ofqual to students, which I will re-copy [here](#).

Mocks @ Home

- We are grateful for the work many students and parents put into these. However, we did not achieve anything like full coverage, and the Ofqual guidance issued after the mocks on 3rd April strongly recommended we don't use data like this to inform the Centre Assessed Grade. You shouldn't feel the work was wasted – doing a practice exam is always a useful exercise - but please understand it will not be central evidence for us in awarding your grade. If you did a mock at home there's a small chance it could help your grade, but it definitely won't hurt it, so don't worry too much about it.
- Given many students missed mocks in many subjects, and the circumstances they were taken in were far from perfect, we cannot publish a full set of results to each of you. Instead I have asked individual teachers to consider whether sharing the results with students, plus some feedback on how to improve, would be helpful in the coming weeks. You can talk to your teachers directly about this if you are especially curious to get feedback, but please understand how imperfect this data will be and that it will not form central evidence for your eventual GCSE grade.

Work over the next five weeks

The Ofqual decision to not require further GCSE work **creates an exciting opportunity for your learning this half term and we strongly encourage you to make the most of it.** Year 11 will follow an open timetable for the next five

weeks and direct their own study. Developing this independence is key preparation for Y12. You should make your own schedules and complete between 4 and 6 hours of school work a day, following what we post on KAA@Home. The curriculum you will follow will be;

- a. **English & Maths skills boosters.** Whatever you do next year, maximising your knowledge of these two core subjects is essential. You will be able to select work appropriate to you – whether you were a Grade 9 or a Grade 4 candidate, you will find something challenging and helpful.
- b. **Y12 bridging work – A Level Version.** Most students in Y11 want to study A Levels next year, either at KAA or another sixth form. We will be setting you work that will prepare you for these courses, and develop broader knowledge and critical thinking skills that will make you more confident and capable A Level students. You should choose bridging work for the 4 subjects you know you want to study, and submit work to teachers as per the instructions on KAA@Home. *Please note that doing bridging work in a subject is not a promise of a place at KAA Sixth Form – admissions will work as normal, based off the grades you are awarded.*
- c. **Y12 bridging work – Vocational Version.** Some students will be studying vocational courses next year, and we will be contacting them individually to suggest work they could usefully do. In the meantime, they should focus on English & Maths skills boosters, which will be particularly important for this group.

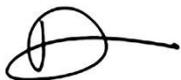
In addition, if any of you feel now that you would definitely like to take a GCSE exam in the autumn in a particular subject, and therefore want to keep studying the GCSE course in Sum1, please contact the Head of Department for that subject directly to create a plan.

Leaving Assembly / Y11 Prom

- Many of you will be coming back to KAA next year, but a number of students will be moving on to other schools and colleges, and we won't all be together as a year group from September. We are hoping that we can bring everyone together for a final occasion in June or July – either an awards ceremony at school, or a prom as we planned, or both. This is subject to lockdown measures etc, and we will be back in touch nearer the time.
- The official last school day for Y11 will be the end of this half term – Friday 22nd May – and after that we will code students as being on study leave. We will continue to set bridging work for Y12 courses in Sum2, but it will be more limited.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with Mr Kirby your DoL on E.Kirby@kaa.org.uk. Log-in to KAA@Home Y11 pages for the start of term this Wednesday morning – we will have uploaded some initial work by that point – with a fuller set of tasks available the following Monday 27th April. Once you have familiarised yourself with English & Maths Skills Boosters and Y12 bridging work, make yourself a timetable for 4-6 hours each day, and stick to it!

With best wishes,



David Benson
Principal