

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

Known Nurtured Inspired

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



Dear Parent/Carer,

13th May 2021

I hope you are all well and with a little over two weeks left in May, time is flying along for Year 11. In the New Testament, the Bible uses two main Greek words when speaking about “time”. The first is *chronos*, from which we get the word *chronological*, referring to “the passage of time”. This is time that we can measure. The second word is *Kairos*, meaning time in the sense of a right time for something to happen, an “opportunity” or a “favourable occasion”.

The Prime Minister announced earlier this week the first easing of Coronavirus measures for schools. This marks the end of a difficult passage of time where restrictions for schools became ever tighter, making educating and caring for our young people ever more difficult. However, schools are now permitted from the 17th May to relax the wearing of face coverings. At Bishops’ the wearing of face coverings from Monday will become optional in school but is still required for public transport. I feel the optional approach will support our school community to overcome any anxiety and be ready for the weeks and changes to come.

This half term is a busy one for year 11 with evidence and assessments being gathered. [A guide](#) to the processes this summer has been updated for students and colleagues are working carefully through the requirements. I am in a position today to confirm the date on which **formal teaching** in school will end for Y11.

The last day of formal teaching will be Friday 28th May '21, this is the last day of term before the May break. Whilst this is the last formal day of teaching, it is very important that everyone is clear in regard to the following points:

- Teacher assessed grades are to be submitted to the exam boards by 18th June. Year 11 are not expected to return to school after the May break. It is important, however that students remain completely available up until 18th June, should any queries arise. Year 11 students will remain on the school roll until Friday 25th June.
- The year group and individual photographs are scheduled to be taken on the afternoon of the 25th May.
- An interview event which includes 32 different employers will take place on Wednesday 26th May.
- Progress Checks will continue right through the final week with three Science and an English assessment among those scheduled. As you are aware over the next couple of weeks, students will be completing their final progress checks and our students have been a credit to you in their focus, attention, and resilience. They have been a remarkable year group.

Please can I also share that this week two national campaigns coincide, and both make reference to the future. More information on mental health awareness is available by [visiting](#)



[the Mental Health Foundation website](#). For [Christian Aid Week](#), parishes across the country are asking for your support to work with some of the world's most vulnerable communities who are fighting the climate crisis.

Now returning to evidence and assessment for this summer: Subjects will be sharing with students the overviews of the evidence which is going to be used as the basis of the teacher assessed grade. When we explain, ask for signatures and compile the paperwork we will build into our processes consideration of the students who may not have been able to access some of those assessments through no fault of their own. As a further safeguard, if you believe there are mitigating circumstances which we are not aware of, that have affected your **child's ability to access specific subject evidence**, please [follow this link to further information and how to tell us](#). The deadline for informing us is **19th May '21**.

Whilst the link explains the process in detail, to summarise, JCQ outline mitigating circumstances as:

"event[s] outside of the student's control [which] may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade ... Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered.

*Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her **normal level of attainment in an assessment.**" (JCQ Guidance, determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021)*

I'm sure there will be further messages through to June 18th but I would like to get in early and thank you for all the support you have provided to our school community in recent months and years. Perhaps as a parent we don't hear [words of thanks](#) from our teens too often... younger children are better at saying this but the older ones think it too!

With best wishes,



Mr I Wilson
Headteacher