



Beaumont School

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26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and I am delighted that all our students will be joining us in school once again in a very short time. I am writing to inform you about our initial steps in response to the announcements on 25th February from the Department for Education and Ofqual, outlining their plans for the awarding of this year's A Levels and other qualifications. You can find out more about the national arrangements in this [summary](#) for students from the DfE and this [infographic](#) from Ofqual.

We will now need to make our plans about how to assess students fairly and accurately within this framework. We will identify a portfolio of assessment evidence for each subject, some of which is likely to come from assignments already completed, but much of which is still to be produced. We await information from the exam boards about exactly what evidence is permitted, but it is likely to include the upcoming mock exams, any coursework in the subject and the widely publicised exam-style questions, which will be provided by exam boards by Easter. We anticipate students answering a selection of these questions in secure conditions next term, and we will choose the ones which will reflect the parts of the course which were covered with least disruption and which we believe will give students the fairest opportunity to excel.

The most pressing issue for Year 13 students is for us to provide clarity about the timing of the postponed mock exams. As I previously explained, we intend to hold these assessments after students return to school, in order to give them an opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of, and with the intention of using the evidence gained as part of the final portfolio for each subject. We will issue a grade for the mocks, but I must stress that it will only be an indication of how well the student has performed in that particular assessment. The mock grade itself will play no role in the final awarding of the qualification. Instead, the raw result from the mock will be combined with other assessment evidence to produce a final score, which will then be used to produce a grade. The final grade could be higher or lower than the result achieved in the mock exam.

I am now in a position to inform you that we plan to hold the mock exams before the end of this term, commencing on 17th March and ending on 26th March. While these assessments need to be undertaken formally and in standardised conditions, we also want to minimise pressure on students and enable them to perform at their best, so we will not be holding them in our usual exam venues and we will not be using external invigilators. Instead students will be based in classrooms and supervised by teachers. Provision will be made to ensure that students are able to take advantage of exams access arrangements. We will provide a timetable as soon as possible, but in the meantime students already know what they should be revising from the letter I sent to you on 29th January, and I would strongly encourage them to continue doing so. Lessons from 8th March until the mock exams will be devoted to revision.

Please note that starting the mock exams on 17th March involves a minor change to the COVID-19 testing which we communicated previously. We will move the final



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COVID-19 test for Year 13 students forward to 16th March so that they are finished in time for the mock exams.

I am well aware that our students are in a very difficult situation and I can only imagine that they must be feeling a lot of anxiety. We want them to get the success they deserve so they can go on to fulfil their ambitions, and I hope that this information helps by providing a bit more certainty. There are still many questions which they will want answered, most notably about exactly what evidence will be used in each subject to determine their grade. We will make this decision when we have further instructions from the exam boards, and will communicate it to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, the message to students remains that their ongoing work is still important, that everything is still to play for and that their effort now and over the next few weeks and months will pay off.

Thank you for all your understanding and for everything you are doing to support the education of your son/daughter. Please pass on my best wishes to them and let them know that we are very much looking forward to having them back in school from 8th March.

Kind regards,

Mr J Mountstevens
Deputy Headteacher



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