

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,
















We are writing to you as we look to the end of the year 11 GCSE journey at Montsaye. Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard over the course of lockdown, engaging well in online learning, and submitting work to their teachers. We are very proud of them and this work has not gone unnoticed.

### GCSE Exam Grading Process 2021

Following recent guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), the GCSE summer exam series 2021 will not be taking place, instead students will be given an assessed grade by their school.

The overarching principles set by the DfE published guidance agree that teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade that a student is performing at and that students should only be assessed on content that they have been taught. When determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential. Teachers should use the time remaining to balance continued teaching with assessments, which are key to determining the final grade.

We have included this useful infographic from Ofqual, the government body that approves all qualifications, to help you better understand the process that all schools are required to go through in awarding grades this summer:

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 <b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a>
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	

### Montsaye approach to awarding final grades

We have analysed the guidance on awarding grades this summer and put together a programme that will best support our students in meeting their desired educational outcomes. Year 11 will have a combination of taught content, revision, review and classroom based assessments. These assessments will help inform decisions about final grades awarded. Assessments will only be based on taught content, and this will be revisited prior to any assessments.

Assessments will take place in classrooms under strict exam conditions; students with agreed exam access arrangements will still have access to these. We will not be using formal, hall based, exams. We have some previous assessment data from their time in year 10 and 11, these assessments may be used to support and improve outcomes. Subjects will be using different but relevant forms of evidence. For some courses, such as Art and Photography, non-exam assessments (NEAs) will be used within the judgement. This is in line with Ofqual guidance, so students will be expected to continue to work towards NEAs such as coursework, portfolios or performance elements.

We will be submitting final grades to the exam boards by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The final grade will be a “Montsaye grade” not a “Teacher grade” which will go through several layers quality assurance to remove all bias. This is in line with the guidance which all schools are expected to adhere to.

The GCSE results day will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Please see below the assessment cycle for Y11 students:

Week Beginning	Focus
15.03.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
22.03.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
29.03.2021	<i>Easter Holidays – Revision Sessions</i>
05.04.2021	<i>Easter Holidays – Revision Sessions</i>
<b>12.04.2021</b>	<b>Assessment Week 1</b>
19.04.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
26.04.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
<b>03.05.2021</b>	<b>Assessment Week 2</b>
10.05.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
17.05.2021	Lessons – Recapping and Revising
<b>24.05.2021</b>	<b>Assessment Week 3</b>
31.05.2021	<i>May Half Term</i>

Please note that the school leaving date for Y11 students has not yet been confirmed by the DFE.

### Year 11 Intervention Sessions

To further support year 11 we have put together a comprehensive plan. This involves both after-school and Easter holiday revision sessions. The majority of the revision sessions will take place over MS Teams, with some practical subjects completing work in school. Students will be made aware of what is being covered in each of these sessions, and whether they will be teacher led or independently led.

### After-School Intervention

The after-school intervention programme will follow the below structure, with core and option subjects alternating each week for the earlier and later session. All sessions will take place on MS Teams, unless students are completing practical work. Class teachers will make students aware if this affects them.

Date	Assessment Point	Session 1 3.30-4.25pm / 3-4pm for practical	Session 2 4.35-5.30pm
W/C 15.03.2021		Core	Options
W/C 22.03.2021		Options	Core
<i>Easter Holidays</i>			
W/C 12.04.2021	<b>Assessment 1</b>	Core	Options
W/C 19.04.2021		Options	Core
W/C 26.04.2021		Core	Options
W/C 03.05.2021	<b>Assessment 2</b>	Options	Core
W/C 10.05.2021		Core	Options
W/C 17.05.2021		Options	Core
W/C 24.05.2021	<b>Assessment 3</b>	Core	Options
<i>May Half Term</i>			

For after-school revision, each subject will run a session on the same day each week, alternating between the earlier and later session. The allotted days are below.

Core		Options	
Day	Subject	Day	Subject
Monday	Geography or History	Monday	Option A
Tuesday	English	Tuesday	Option B
Wednesday	Maths	Wednesday	Option C
Thursday	Science	Thursday	Sports Studies

### Easter Intervention Sessions

During the two-week Easter break, teachers will be running dedicated revision sessions for students. The timetable will run following the same days as after-school sessions, with core subjects holding sessions in week 1 (w/c 29<sup>th</sup> March, Monday-Thursday), and option subjects holding sessions in week 2 (w/c 5<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday-Thursday).

These will be mainly run over MS teams, however where practical elements are required, students will be required to attend in-school sessions, class teachers will make students aware if this affects them. Further information regarding timings and topics covered will be shared with students closer to the time.

We understand that the final few months of year 11 are always revision and assessment heavy; as a result, we will be continuing to offer regular well-being support to all year 11 students, with a focus in particular during tutor time on this.

We appreciate that you will have many questions and some anxieties about the process so we have attached a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to this letter that may address some of these. If you have any questions that have not been answered by the content of this letter please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

We thank you for your support and patience.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Meena Gabbi  
Principal



Mr Gopal Baria  
Senior Vice Principal



Miss Hannah Pickering  
Year 11 Progress Leader