



06/05/2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Summer Term Updates

Thank you for your support of the return of both year 12 and year 13 to in person teaching. We have been delighted with how successful it has been, and I know teachers are thoroughly enjoying having their students back in the classroom full time!

To allow us to welcome both year groups back, there have been a number of new routines for students to learn. These include a staggered start in the morning; all students spending break and lunch outside unless they are eating; and using the path at the front of the buildings when travelling around site to ensure they do not cross any other year group bubbles. These routines are designed to keep all our students and staff at Bluecoat Aspley Academy as safe as possible. Details of these messages are delivered during morning tutor time, it is important that students attend. A reminder that this is 8.30-8.55am Monday and Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays for Year 12, and 8.30-8.55am Thursday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays for Year 13.

Teacher assessed grades Summer 2021

We want to support our students and their families in understanding the process by which student grades will be awarded this academic year. Just before the Easter break JCQ released guidance for students and parents on how grades are to be awarded this summer. I have attached this document in case of use. I have also attached the PowerPoint that was shared with students during form time which explains the Teacher Assessed Grades 2021 process.

All teacher assessed grades must be evidence based. We have therefore explained to students that attendance has never been more important, as over the coming weeks they will continue to provide evidence of their ability in their subjects.

If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to get in touch. There is a dedicated section of the Bluecoat Aspley website for summer 2021 awarding of grades where we will share relevant documents and information.

<https://www.bluecoataspley.co.uk/learning/tag2021/>

End of Term Dates

It is with a sense of sadness that we look towards our year 13s leaving us. The last 14 months have been such a difficult time, and while we have found creative ways to teach and support our students online, we have not been able to give them a 'normal' sixth form experience. However, when I think of the offers our students hold for university places, the apprenticeship placements

that students have secured and the wonderful plans they have for the future, I know they are going on to bigger and better things, hopefully in a world that feels a little safer than it has over the last year. The lessons they learnt about themselves, about community and about resilience and adaptability will, I know, serve them well as they take their next steps.

In anticipation of students taking this next step, we will be having a day off timetable dedicated to preparing students for life after sixth form on **Thursday 20th May**. This day will be virtual so students will not be expected to physically attend sixth on the day, however they will be expected to attend online. This day will be used to support students with transitioning onto the next stage in their lives.

End of Term Dates

Year 13 lessons will draw to a close after P3 on **Thursday 27th May**. However, **students must be available in case they are needed to come into the sixth form until June 18th**, in case any gaps in student evidence are identified as staff continue to work on collating, moderating and filing student work.

After lessons finish on Thursday 27th May, there will be a summer celebration which student ambassadors and pastoral staff are busy planning. The summer celebration is an opportunity for us and the wider sixth form staff to say goodbye to the whole year group and we very much hope all students will attend.

Results day

We are hoping to run an in person results day from **8am on Thursday 10th August**. As the sixth form building will have been handed over to Bluecoat Trent Academy by then, results day will take place in Central Block at the Aspley site. Results day itself is always a day of great emotion and hopefully much relief of hard work having paid off. While we hope the majority of students will find on the day that they can take up places at their first choice universities, for any student for whom this may not be the case, members of the Sixth Form team will be on hand to provide guidance and support on the various alternative opportunities available.

Appeals

If on results day students are concerned that there has been an error in the grade they have been awarded, they have the right to appeal their grade. The JCQ guidance for parents and students (attached) has a comprehensive overview of the appeals process. In summary:

An appeal to the school is made. We check:

- If there has been an admin error
- That the procedure was followed correctly
- That students and parents understand the school policy
- That students understand what evidence we collected to inform grade
- That any special circumstances that were taken into account

If they still do not think that they have the correct grade, students can ask the school to appeal on their behalf to the exam board. They will check:

- That the evidence was appropriate
- That procedure was followed correctly
- That the exam board did not make an admin error

We will continue to share any updates relating to the process for awarding grades this year and as ever, we are happy to take any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support over the last two years.

Yours faithfully,

Wool

Nick