

John Colet School  
**Teacher Assessed Grades - March 2021**  
**Parent and Student Q&A**

The arrangements assessing students leading to Teacher Assessed Grades for Years 11 and 13 were set out in the JCS Update email of 19 March (reproduced below). The questions below have been received in response to this letter.

**Emails received by 22.3.21**

We find last week's school update email rather confusing, and we are sure that we won't be the only ones. Scrolling through the email you reach the paragraph concerning Years 11 and 13 and the assessments. A bullet point attached to this paragraph states that the INSET date is to be moved from 30/04 to 25/5. What is not made clear is whether this change relates to just Years 11 and 13, or the whole school. Could you please confirm?

**An INSET day affects the whole school as only members of staff are in on that day. So all students will now be attending on Friday 30 March and no students attending on Tuesday 25 May.**

Please can you clarify why the inset day has been moved to a Tuesday and, consequently, causing an unnatural disjointed week?

**The final assessments for Years 11 and 13 take place on Friday 21 May so to give teachers time to complete their marking the INSET day is on Tuesday so that the results of all assessments can go through a standardisation process. Having the INSET day on Tuesday also means that students miss fewer lessons than if it had been on Monday or later in the week.**

I've just been informed you have moved the inset day from 30 April to 25 May. I have already purchased theme park tickets (non refundable) for that day plus overnight stay in a self contained apartment as allowed by the new rules. Also paid for the accommodation- non-refundable. This would be an expensive loss incurred by me for your shifting of the agreed dates, as displayed on your school calendar. I ensured to check the school calendar before booking. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has booked trips as we have been waiting patiently for lockdown to be eased. This is v unfair to change and puts me considerably out of pocket.

**Given that the school has changed this date it is reasonable that you should not be out of pocket. Please complete a [Leave of Absence](#) form and return it to the school with proof of when the booking was made. This will then be an authorised absence. Your child will miss out on work carried out in school that day, but it should be available on Google Classroom. I apologise for the inconvenience, but I hope you understand the reason for the change of date.**

**2021.03.19 Email to parents and students**

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

We are making excellent progress on the lateral flow testing with students in Years 10-13 now having completed three and as a result been issued with home self-testing kits. Along with members of staff we should be completing two tests per week - Sunday and Wednesday evening is my preference - and then [submitting the results online](#). In the event of a positive result the recommendation is to isolate until there has been a chance to [book](#) and complete a PCR test. Once again thank you to all those involved in administering the tests and to students who have been polite and cooperative throughout. Mask-wearing in lessons has been adopted successfully across the school and we will look out for any change to this requirement in time for the start of next term. The vast majority of students bring in their own mask each day, but recently there has been an increase in requests for temporary masks which are not as robust as those brought in from home. Please ensure all students are bringing their own mask each day.

Following a series of meetings this week we are now in a position to make clear the assessment programme for all year groups. There will be more information for Year 11 and 13 students next week, but the overall picture is given below.

#### **Year 13**

- Assessments will take place in lessons after Easter according to a timetable published by the end of this term.
- Assessments will take place in normal lesson time with no more than 40 minutes per assessment per hour lesson to allow for 25% extra time for those who require.
- Assessments will be completed by Thursday 20 May, which will be the last teaching day for Year 13.

#### **Year 12**

- Exams will take place in the Gym in the week commencing 7 June according to a timetable to be published by the Exams Team.

#### **Year 11**

- Assessments will take place in lessons after Easter according to a timetable published by the end of this term.
- Assessments will take place in normal lesson time with no more than 40 minutes per assessment per hour lesson to allow for 25% extra time for those who require.
- Written assessments will take place for all students in the same lesson or on the same day in order to ensure fairness. This may require the use of some core subject time or collapsing of classes in the option blocks.
- Assessments will be completed by Friday 21 May, which will be the last day for Year 11.

#### **Year 10**

- Exams will take place in the Hall and Gym in the week commencing 21 June for core and some option subjects according to a timetable to be published by the Exams Team.

#### **Years 7-9**

- Assessments will take place during normal lesson time in the fortnight commencing 7 June.

In the summer of 2019, when Year 11 and 13 students last sat full examinations, the exam boards issued 1,594 grades. This year schools are being expected to award these grades on the basis of assessments carried out in school. It is difficult to describe the size of the task, but perhaps the number of grades to be awarded gives some sense of the scale of the challenge to be achieved by 18 June. Given the demands on time to produce, mark and standardise the assessments for Years 11 and 13 which will lead to the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) the following measures will be adopted during the first half of the summer term:

All Tuesday Period 5 sessions will be dedicated to the assessment process.

Teachers will not be expected to provide individual written feedback for student work in Years 7-9. The INSET day planned for Friday 30 April (the Bank Holiday weekend) will be moved to Tuesday 25 May. This will allow for an extra day's teaching on 30 April and then a day for completing marking and the standardisation process on 25 May once Year 11 and 13 students have left.

I am very reluctant to move an INSET day at such short notice, but it seems the right decision given the situation. If you have any questions or comments on the above please let me know using [office@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:office@johncolet.co.uk) and if there are similar issues coming through I will create a Q&A document for the school website.

Did you manage to see the final of the [Great Pottery Throw Down](#) on Sunday? Our very own Mr White, D&T Teacher, made it through to the final. So far we have been managing the student queues for autographs to help him cope with the demands associated with his new found fame. We are really proud of him!



Two issues have arisen recently which would benefit from parent and student feedback. It seems that Chiltern Railways' reduced timetable means that some students are facing a long wait at Wendover Station to get a train home. It seems that enough parents contact customer service at Chiltern Rail they will amend their timetable, so please help if you can. On a completely different note [Wendover Parish Council](#) has formed a working party to investigate the viability of reintroducing a Skate Park. The working party is keen to gain the view of those living in our community and would be very grateful if you could complete a [short survey](#). All members of your household can submit a response and please feel free to share with friends and family. The deadline for submission is 31 March.

Regards

Patrick Harty  
Headteacher