

Alderbrook School

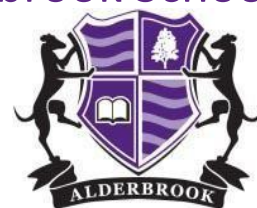
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REK/MAC

10 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Assessments for Year 11 and Year 13 I am writing to you

following Tom Beveridge's letter of 5 February, with further information about assessments for Year 11 and 13 students which will take place after half term.

As stated in the letter, Year 11s and Year 13s will not experience the mock exams, but we are aware that the more information we can collate on how students are achieving and progressing, the more accurately we will be able to assess what students have learnt. The consultation about Summer examinations outlined that there still may be some externally-set assessments that students are required to take this summer, so it is crucial that we continue to support students in preparing for these.

The upcoming assessments will take place as follows:

Year 11: Week Beginning 22 February

Year 13: Week Beginning 1 March

The assessments will fall in normal timetabled lessons and can be completed remotely. The assessments will be 40 minutes long and teachers will advise students as to the topics and specific lessons. Time has been provided within the lessons for students to submit their work. We will contact students who have Access Arrangements via their school email addresses, and their parents/carers, reminding them about their entitlement.

Students should look on Class Charts later this week where they will find important advice to support them. This information will also be shared with students by teachers just before the tests start. As all assessments will be set on Assignments, the information on Class Charts will also remind them how to upload their work to this platform.

It will be important that your child can complete the assessments in a quiet room, working at a table. As far as we are aware, all our students now have access to the technology they need to complete their work. If this is not the case, please get back in touch with us straight away.



Alderbrook School
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Whilst we expect most students to complete these assessments fairly, we would ask for your support in reminding your child that they must not refer to any documents, websites or friends during an assessment. They should treat them as if they were doing a class test in school. Teachers can usually tell straight away when a student's work is not their own – by comparing papers, analysing text for plagiarism or by noting an unusual pattern in their outcomes over time. We will endeavour to inform you if we suspect such activity, though we will also talk to students about this when they return to school. In some cases, this may result in assessments becoming invalid.

Most importantly, we need an honest picture of what students know and how they apply their skills, so that this can inform lessons for the next few weeks. Having accurate information will enable teachers to help students to be well prepared for any external assessments that maybe scheduled by the exam boards following their consultation. A danger might be that a student does not produce their own work in these assessments, and the teacher assumes they do not need to improve this aspect. The student ultimately will suffer in a scenario like this.

Students should not worry overly about these assessments and should consider that teachers would ordinarily be providing similar class tests if they had been in school during normal times. We will be collecting a range of work from them between now and the summer. If they are attending their lessons and completing the class work, they should find that these are very manageable for them.

Please note that not every subject will set an assessment during the allocated week, especially in Year 11, as some subjects are currently focusing on the non-examined assessment element of the course.

Many thanks again for your support during these difficult times, and we look forward to a return to normality soon.

Yours faithfully



Kate Read
Deputy Headteacher