

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students,

As you are aware, Ofqual held a consultation on how Year 11 and Year 13 students should be assessed this year. The outcomes of the consultation are as follows:

**Will my child sit final examinations in summer 2021?**

The government has cancelled all summer 2021 examinations due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. You will be pleased to know that no algorithm will be applied this year. As a school, we will use a wide range of evidence to determine the grade including:

- Mock examinations held in school in the Autumn Term
  - These were based on past and sample examination papers, were standardised and moderated in school, and across the Trust where applicable and the results shared with you.
- “STAR” mark tasks completed in school and took place during remote learning
  - These were tasks based on examination specifications. Details of the incomplete “STAR” mark tasks were sent to you on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and students were provided with an opportunity to catch up on missing tasks before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Following this they were offered an opportunity to catch up in after-school sessions at school.
- April assessment exams
  - Students will sit assessment exams during the weeks commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> April. Standardisation and moderation activities will take place following these assessments and the results will be shared with you.
- In class assessments
  - Class assessments during the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May based on examination specification and/or assessment materials provided by the examinations board. Standardisation activities will take place to ensure consistency in marking for these assessments.

No single assessment will determine the grade your child will be awarded. Any additional work completed, for example past questions completed with a student’s out of school private tutor, cannot be considered in this process as they have not gone through the school’s robust quality assurance processes. Work that has been submitted previously can now not be redone or amended.

Grades will be submitted to the exam boards in June. Year 13 students will be given their results on Tuesday 10 August 2021. Year 11 students will be given their results on Thursday 12 August 2021. We will be unable to share these grades with you before this time.

**What does this mean for my child?**

The government has made it clear that students will need to be assessed on the content they have covered during Key Stage 4/5. This means that since your child has returned to school, lessons have focussed on consolidating learning from Years 9, 10 and 11 for GCSE students, and learning from Year 12 and Year 13 for A-Level students.

**When will the final assessment be?**

As you will be aware our April assessment period takes place over two weeks from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Students have been working hard in lessons to fully prepare for these and we would stress that students should treat these seriously and work with their teachers to fully prepare for them. Assessments will be sat in full exam conditions and students will be tested on the content of the course that they have covered. Students will not be tested on any section of the specification that has not been taught. All content covered has been reviewed with our Heads of Department and the Headteacher, to ensure that where a full course has not been covered, all students have covered sufficient content that allows them to progress onto their next stage. During this assessment period Y11 will attend lessons between their exams where they will be supported to revise or prepare for the assessments. Y13 do not need to attend school when they are not in examinations during this fortnight period.

We are aware that some students are concerned about the impact that one poor mark may have on the grade submitted to the exam board and we would like to reassure everyone that no single assessment will determine the grade your child will be awarded, and we will consider the full range of evidence we have before determining the grade to be submitted to the exam boards. Similarly, the grade awarded will not simply be a student's target grade, instead the grade that the pieces of work outline demonstrate that a student is working at.

Following these assessments, we will then spend more time in lessons consolidating learning to allow the students to have a further opportunity during the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May to complete in-class assessments. It is important that all students attend all lessons up to and including this week to provide us with as much evidence as possible when reviewing the evidence that we have for each student. As detailed previously, grades submitted will not be based on one piece of evidence alone so the more information we have that a student is working at a particular grade the better.

We will be sending you our policy document later this half term that outlines the roles and responsibilities within the school.

## What happens after the assessments?

Beckfoot Thornton, Bedford BD13 3BH

Once all of the assessments have been completed, departments will be reviewing the evidence that has been collected for each student before a school level decision will be made on the grade awarded. This data will go through a robust quality assurance process involving leaders at all levels and across the Beckfoot Trust. **No individual teacher can make a decision on their own.** Please note that your child's teachers will not be able to discuss this grade with you or your child. Any queries about this process or further information can be sent to [results@beckfootthornton.org](mailto:results@beckfootthornton.org)

No further work will be completed on assessments or evidence supporting the student's grades after **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May to allow us** time to complete our robust quality assurance procedures. After May half term **transition materials** and support will be provided through a blended approach including some in school sessions and other sessions via teams to help prepare Y11 and Y13 for their next steps. Further details will be sent to you about this later this half term.

There will be a COVID-19 safe 'send off' for Y11 and Y13 students on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. We are looking forward to celebrating with our Y11 students at their prom on Thursday **24<sup>th</sup> June**. If your child wishes to attend the prom please make sure that you have paid the £20 ticket fee as soon as possible so that we are able to ensure the event takes place.

### Y11 Key Dates

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2 week assessment period</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>1 week final in class assessment period</b>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Final day studying towards Y11 qualifications in school</b>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Support for next steps starts – further details to follow</b>
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Y11 Prom</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>GCSE Results day – further details to follow</b>

### Y13 Key Dates

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2 week assessment period</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>1 week final in class assessment period</b>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Final day studying towards Y13 qualifications in school</b>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Support for next steps starts – further details to follow</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>A Level Results day – further details to follow</b>

## What if I disagree with the grade awarded to my child?

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For information on appeals for students and parents/carers please visit:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

Thank you for your continued support this term.

Best wishes



Mr J Richardson  
Headteacher  
Beckfoot Thornton

**Headteacher:** Jeremy Richardson  
**Chair of Academy Trustees:**  
John Winkley

**Beckfoot**  
Trust



Leaventhorpe Lane, Thornton, Bradford BD13 3BH

Tel: 01274 881082

Email: [office@beckfootthornton.org](mailto:office@beckfootthornton.org)

[www.beckfootthornton.org](http://www.beckfootthornton.org)

Follow us on Twitter: [@Beckfootthornt1](https://twitter.com/Beckfootthornt1)

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