



Chipping Sodbury School

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18th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a critical phase of your son/daughter's education, we wish to communicate a number of key messages regarding the completion of Key Stage 4. In this letter, you will find:

1. Key dates
2. Further information regarding how grades will be decided this year
3. The programme on offer for Year 11 students during June (Futures Project)

Key dates

Wednesday 26 th May 2021	In has been a tradition for year 11 students to mark their transition into our sixth form, or as they move on to a college or apprenticeship, by having their peers and teachers sign their shirts or polo shirts. This year this event will take place in the afternoon of Wednesday 26 th May. Students should arrive in normal school uniform and from lunchtime onwards will be permitted to sign each other's shirts and use their phones to take photos of the end of year 11 celebrations.
Thursday 27 th May 2021	Again, it has been a tradition to make the final day of term 5 in year 11 with a celebration. As part of the normal end of term 'multi-day' event many year 11 students choose to go the extra mile, selecting some interesting and amusing fancy dress outfits. Students will be expected to attend lessons as normal during periods 1 to 3 but will then be allowed some additional free time to take some year group and individual photographs during period 4. From the start of lunchtime onwards (1.30pm), year 11 students will be allowed to leave site and will not be expected to attend lessons during period 5. Lunch will be available to those students who receive free school meals as normal at 1.30 however, please note there will be no other lunch service available
Friday 28 th May	No students in school, Trust moderation/quality assurance day
Monday 7 th June – Thursday 24 th June	Futures Project for all Year 11 students (see below)
Thursday 1 st July <i>(please note a change to the original date)</i>	Cotswold Edge Induction morning, further detail will be sent to students via the Cotswold Edge Post 16 team in due course. Moving on assembly for all students in Year 11 – arrive at school at the Year 11 entrance (back gate) for 1.30pm, no uniform but smart attire, this is a formal occasion and fitting celebration.
Monday 5 th July	Year 11 Prom at Tortworth Court, 6.30pm arrival
Thursday 12 th August	GCSE/BTEC results day. We are hoping this will be able to be on-site but we will not be clear if this will be allowed until nearer the time. We will update you when we are able to do so.



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Assistant Headteachers: Mrs L Davies, Mr K Milburn
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How grades will be decided

Following previous letters to parents/carers, you are likely to be aware that grades this summer will be based on a range of pieces of evidence from different items of work produced by each student. The details below gives an indication of which pieces of work will be used by different subjects. For BTEC courses, the full external assessment process is still in place therefore there is no change to the usual method of determining grades. As there is a clear principle that no student will be disadvantaged if they have had to self-isolate for periods of time, for some individuals, we will be using additional evidence from classwork, homework and assessments. Grades have to be based on the evidence we have rather than what a student might have achieved if circumstances had been different.

Maths	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Termly assessments in Year 10 and 11 Classwork and internal tracking data Work on Dr Frost
English	Summer Assessment (based on past papers) In class assessments December Mock (based on past papers) Internal tracking data
Science	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Science End of Topic Tests (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) Classwork and work completed remotely during lockdown Internal tracking data
RE	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Classwork completed throughout the course Internal tracking data (based on work completed as part of normal in class assessment)
French	Summer Assessment December Mock Studio 'Contrôle' for AQA GCSE (Various listening and reading tasks completed during lessons) Key assessment tasks from year 10 and 11 (normal class assessments) Internal tracking data
History	Summer Assessment (based on past papers) Key assessment tasks through the course December Mock (based on past papers) Internal tracking data Classwork completed throughout the course
Geography	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) End of unit assessments (completed in school) End of unit assessments (completed remotely) Exam questions completed as classwork (in school) Exam questions completed as classwork (remotely) Internal tracking data
Music	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Recording of performance work. Recording of free-style composition Internal tracking data

Design and Technology	NEA (research, Design/development/ Modelling, design brief and specification) Summer Assessment (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Internal tracking data
GCSE PE	Summer Assessments (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) NEA: Practical – (2 practical activities) NEA: Written Coursework (fully completed) Internal tracking data
Food	NEA Summer Assessment (based on past papers) December Mock (based on past papers) Classwork and work completed remotely during lockdown Internal tracking data
Business Studies	Summer Assessment (based on past papers) Mock paper in December (based on past papers) Mini in-class assessments (Practice questions completed throughout the course) Classwork and work completed remotely during lockdown Internal tracking data

I urge everyone to keep working hard at this point as we may need to use pieces of work which are being produced now as additional evidence. We will be 'visited' by exam board officers/representatives from JCQ in the summer to scrutinise our processes and to sample some students' work. It is therefore vital that all exercise books, folders, portfolios, completed past papers etc are left in school with the relevant subject teacher. It is important teachers have access to all work over the coming months as any piece of evidence could be required to assist grade determination and we want to be as fair as possible to all our students.

Futures Project

There is an expectation by the DfE for all schools to provide a programme for students in Year 11 once their assessment period has been completed and prior to the official leaving date of 25th June 2021. We have taken a pragmatic and flexible approach to this additional need and have created a programme to both support students in their preparation for Post 16, additional careers advice and guidance and an opportunity for students to arrange their own work experience placement should they wish to do so.

Students in year 11 have had a presentation about this programme during an assembly where the expectations and sessions on offer have been explained by Mr Hinkins. Each student should complete the form which is also attached to this letter and return it to their tutor before the end of this term. The subject specific sessions which are on-site are to support those students who intend to study these subjects in the 6th Form or at college and should give participants greater depth in key topics to aid the transition to A level courses.

This programme is an offer which we hope will provide further support, guidance and teaching in recognition this has been a challenging year. However, there is no expectation that anyone is on-site for a full timetable each day, students may pick and choose appropriate sessions to suit their needs. A link to the programme on offer can be found [here](#). The link can also be found directly on the first page of the website. If you have any queries regarding the programme, please contact Mr Hinkins, Deputy Headteacher.

After an incredibly difficult year, full of a great deal of uncertainty, I do wish to commend this year group for their maturity and understanding. The vast amount of students have responded so positively to different ways of working and the restrictions which have been imposed on all schools. Whilst some have found this very difficult, overall I have seen a resilient, mature and very adaptable generation of young people of whom I am incredibly proud. We are looking forward to welcoming many of them back into our Cotswold Edge 6th Form to support them with their next phase of learning. I also wish to thank all of you as parents/carers for working with us over the years; working together helps to secure the very best for each individual. I do hope I see many of you at the start of the Prom which is always a very happy celebration.



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Yours sincerely,



Katherine Turner
Headteacher



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