

**Re: Year 11 testing, return to school and awarding of qualifications**

Dear parents and carers,

As you may now be aware, formal GCSE examinations for Year 11 will not be taking place this summer due to disruptions caused by Covid-19. Pupils' GCSE grades will instead be determined by internal, teacher assessments.

I am now in a position to share some more details of this process with you.

- a. Schools will need to provide evidence of how they have arrived at grades for individual pupils. Exam boards will provide "optional" questions for subjects, which teachers can use alongside other evidence – such as coursework and mock exam results.
- b. A full autumn 2021 exam series will be held for pupils who want to improve the grades they have been awarded.
- c. GCSE results day is now on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- d. Schools will have their internal quality assurance processes signed off by exam boards prior to grade submission. In June and July, exam boards will randomly pick schools to sample the evidence they used.

As a school, we are keen to ensure that the process in which grades are awarded by teachers is accurate and fair in order to support pupils in their future academic and professional endeavours.

We have arranged two internal mock examinations which pupils will sit under exam conditions in school. These examinations will be a means for teachers to formally assess pupils' performance and attainment. The grades achieved by the pupils in these exams will form a part of the evidence on which the final grades will be awarded.

The dates are as follows:

Exam period 1 (pre-mock exams)	15 <sup>th</sup> March to 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Exam period 2 (final mock exams)	10 <sup>th</sup> May to 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2021

We are also in the process of trying to prepare the school for face-to-face teaching from 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is a complex task as we will need to carry out a large amount of covid testing prior to pupils returning.

At the moment it is highly likely that pupils in Year 11 will be invited to school for testing on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This would allow Year 11 pupils to attend school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Pupils will then need to be re-tested on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Final details about testing will be sent to you once the school has confirmed its plans.

Throughout the exam period, pupils are only required to attend school at the time that they have an exam. **They will revise remotely at home at all other times.**

A copy of the exam timetable can be found here:

<https://www.leytonstoneschool.org/page/?title=Exam+information&pid=62>

It is important to note that pupils will not be penalised if they are absent for any of these exams for reasons related to Covid-19. Those pupils who are self-isolating will be given an opportunity to complete these examinations at another time.

We understand that this is a challenging time for your child. Please be aware that support is available. Please refer to the Year 11 team (Mr Davis, Ms Akuji or Ms Bansal) if you have any concerns or questions regarding the above.

Please encourage your child to continue to review all of the learning they have been doing since the start of this term and to continue to attend their remote learning lessons regularly.

Please note, the school's plans may be subject to change if guidance from OfQual or the DfE changes. We will keep you updated with information as and when we receive it.

Yours faithfully,

Jessica McQuaid  
**Head Teacher**