



16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Arrangements for GCSE, A level and vocational qualifications for Y11 and Y13 and the summer term.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, following the government's decision to cancel exams, schools and colleges have been asked to provide grades based on the work that students have done. Teachers at The Castle Rock School will be using a range of assessments and evidence which will differ dependent on subject. For example, teachers of some vocational qualifications have already assessed units and shared with awarding organisations. Some subjects such as Art will use non-examined assessments of work.

The Joint Council for Qualifications has published a helpful guide for parents and students [here](#) and I would like to emphasise some of the points made in that guidance:

- We will go through a rigorous process to make sure the assessments we use are fair and are marked accurately, including a system of checks to moderate these assessments.
- Overall, students will not be advantaged or disadvantaged this year compared to students who have taken exams in the past.
- Where students are entitled to access arrangements, such as an allowance of extra time, we will ensure these arrangements are in place for any assessments being taken.

We published a calendar of assessments, showing the topics being assessed, before Easter so that students could revise. Unfortunately, we are having to make some amendments to the schedule, for which I apologise. Teachers will ensure that your children are fully aware of any assessments which are coming up and they are working hard to make sure they are prepared. Students will know which assessments are being used as part of the awarding process and will be able to see the marks they have obtained. We will not, however, be able to discuss grades before results day which are 10 August for Y13 and 12 August for Y11.

I've been very impressed with the approach our students are taking in what is clearly a stressful time. If there are particular personal circumstances which you feel have affected your child it is important you let us know as soon as possible. Please use the email address [exams@castlerocksch.uk](mailto:exams@castlerocksch.uk) for this purpose. Correspondence sent to this inbox will be considered by senior staff leading exams and treated as confidential.

Assessments will continue up until 28 May and our internal checking, moderation and sign-off processes will take place after half term. Year 13 students will not need to attend school after this date. Year 11 students do not need to attend during the period 7 – 18 June but, as usual, we will be holding induction sessions for the new Sixth Form after this date and we will send you more details of this later. Offers of Sixth Form places will be made on the basis of an interview and teacher recommendation this year. We have nearly concluded the interviews and so will shortly be able to notify students about their place in our Apollo Sixth Form.

With my best wishes

Duncan Baldwin  
Head of The Castle Rock School

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**Deputy Headteachers** – Mr M Gamble, Mr M Rowbottom and Mrs E Booth

**CEO Apollo Partnership Trust and Executive Secondary Headteacher** - Mrs J Patrick

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