

Government updates

The key information from the release of the Government plans for awarding GCSEs and vocational qualifications this year has been summarised below -

- GCSE exams and vocational qualifications will be replaced by grades determined and awarded by teachers
- Teachers can use a range of evidence to determine these grades
- Exam boards will also be supplying optional question papers which can be used as evidence
- Grades need to be submitted by 18/06/2021 to the exam boards
- Results will be issued on 12/08/2021

Like we did in 2020, we will be ensuring that the grades determined and awarded are:

- Fair
- Evidenced based
- Without bias

We will ensure that any grading judgements are objective; they will take account of existing records and evidence, as well as new evidence generated in the coming months, to demonstrate each student's knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to the subject content that they have been taught.

Types of assessment evidence that could be used to inform judgements:

- Student work in response to assessment materials provided by exam boards
- Non-exam assessment work
- Student work produced that reflects the specification and has been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes. This can include substantial class or homework, internal tests and mock exams taken over the course of study
- Records of student capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects
- Records of each students' progress and performance over the course of study

Teachers will be talking to students in depth over the coming months about what evidence we have and may use. At every step there will be transparency on the quality and grade of each piece of evidence. Before we enter the grades there will be opportunities for students to tell us if there were/are extenuating circumstances that we are unaware of.

There will also be opportunities for appeal—to the school to check that we did not make an error or to the exam board to review our evidence used.

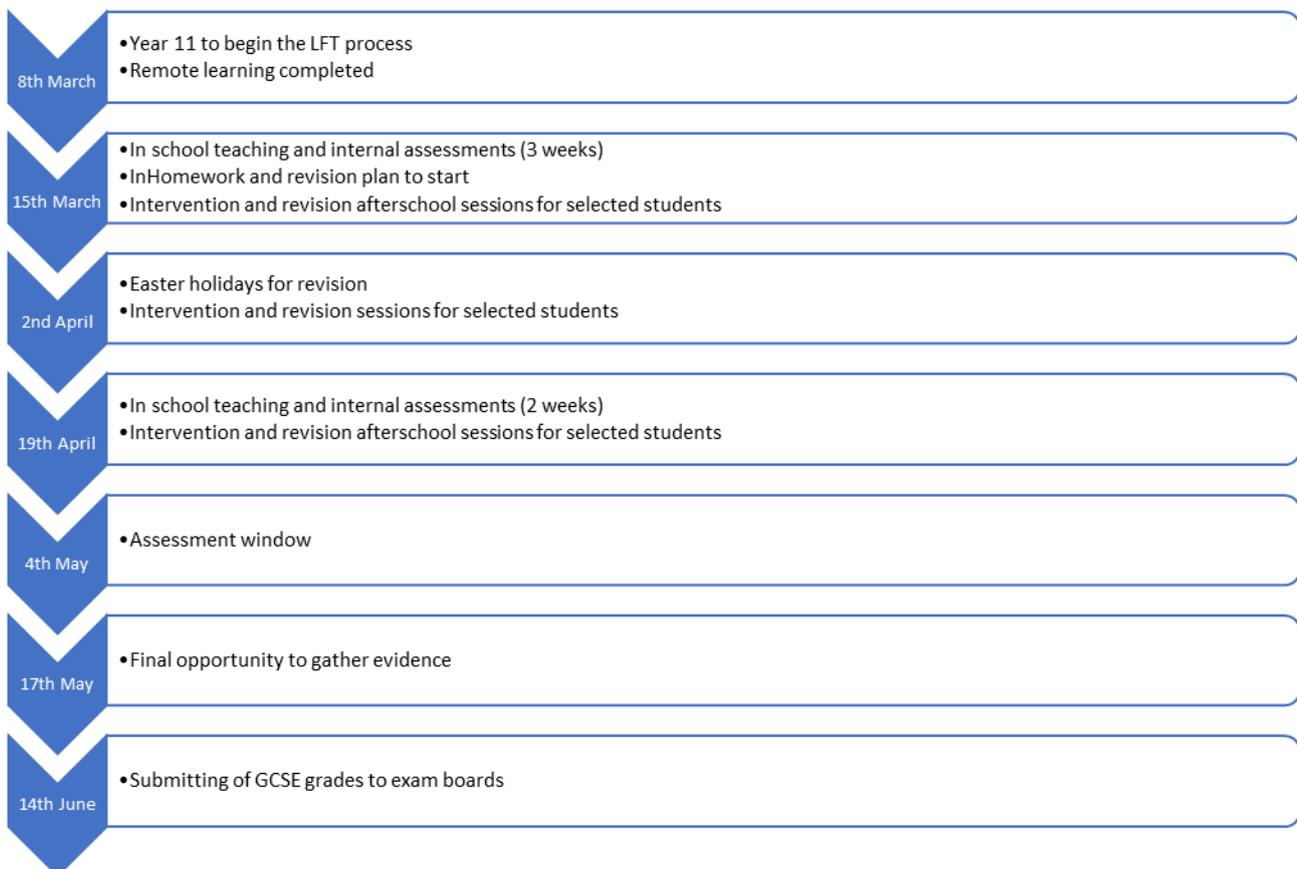
What we are asking of you

- 1) Get your child to school. Every day counts and we still have several weeks in order to gain valuable evidence for each subject.
- 2) Trust us and the approach, it is an excellent alternative for where we currently are. Every student stands to benefit and potentially do better than they would have if the exams took place. All schools will be following the same guidance. They will be using the same exam questions, using similar assessment strategies and similar evidence.

All the schools will be subject to the same quality assurance—we will all have to abide by the same process of moderation and internal quality assurance, which will be supported by a rigorous external quality assurance.

Proposed timeline

Please see below an initial timeline for the remainder of the time until grades are submitted, with dates subject to change.



We will update you when we know the final leaving date for Year 11 students.

Further information

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

ofqual

Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  www.gov.uk/ofqual
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	

There has also been a nice summary of the documentation released on the BBC website below ([click link](#)):

NEWS

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Covid-19: A-level and GCSE results to be decided by teachers

CONSULTATION DECISIONS

For the full guidance [click link](#)

Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021

Homework

On Monday 15th March all Year 10 and 11 students will receive a homework booklet. This booklet will show each student what work is expected to be completed at home each day.

There will also be revision activities that will support progress towards any future assessments.

Please do ask to see their booklets, familiarise yourself with the tasks and support where you can.

All homework will continue to be set on Class Charts.



ClassCharts

Parent Q&A



On Thursday 18th March there will be a chance for parents to ask any questions they have regarding the Year 11 exam process. Mrs Kellow and Miss Waters will lead a Microsoft Teams meeting in the evening.

An invite will be emailed to all parents and students in the next week. If you have any questions please email them to

jkellow@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk ahead of the meeting.

Other information

Intervention

Intervention sessions can start when we return to school. If your child has been identified as someone who would benefit from additional subject specific support then you will be informed by letter.

Intervention sessions will be from 3pm to 4.15pm.

Late buses will be available for those who need it.

Year 11-College and Apprenticeship Applications

Students are now receiving acknowledgement of their applications to various colleges as education providers across the county as well as interview dates and times. Some of these are during the school day and we will try our best to accommodate this as best we can. Where possible, please inform the school of the time and date of the interview to allow us to plan a quiet place for them to go to.