

Post-Easter evidence-gathering assessments for U6 and Year 11 and wider Home Learning Plan.

We have decided to run a further assessment after Easter to enable you to provide a last piece of evidence of your performance, for your predicted GCSE or A level grade that the school will have to provide to the exam boards. For those pupils completing the Sports Baccalaureate BTEC, Miss Tremaine has already advised as to your way forward.

This will be an optional assessment, for those of you who feel that the grade we may predict for you, using existing evidence only, will be lower than that which you feel you could achieve given your recent work. We are not sure if this final assessment will count as evidence, but you may be able to influence our thinking on the judgements that we have to give to the exam board.

Please read the FAQs below if you have any questions about the optional assessments. If you would like to attempt a final assessment in any subject or subjects, please complete the form in the link at the bottom of this document, below the FAQs, before Wednesday 15th April. The assessments themselves will take place shortly after we return to school with a timetable being published shortly.

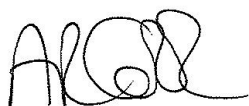
Overall picture is key here. No one will be penalised for either choosing to take the opportunity for these optional assessments or choosing not to take them.

Post-Easter holidays we will also move from your timetabled lessons running as normal, to a more flexible programme of study for all of you. This will largely be based on information we receive from you. We will do this using an online form (see below). Your tutor will also be checking in with you throughout this period. For Year 11, this may see you begin work on your chosen A-Level subjects, for example reading around the topics you will be studying and maybe doing some online learning. For the Upper Sixth, this may see you being mentored by a member of the teaching staff around the courses you are doing next year, or indeed mentoring for wherever your life will take you after Plymouth College.

We will also be launching a few initiatives based around virtual guest speakers, online learning and also on a number of projects such as wellbeing, life skills and financial planning. More information will follow, but our live guest speaker events will happen on Wednesdays and Fridays in the afternoon, so as not to interfere with time to contact teachers. There will also be a large amount of materials and resources online for you to access whenever you like.

You may have lots of questions. There is a list of FAQs below, but if you do have any other questions, please contact your Head of Year, Mr Carr or Mr Grey in the first instance.

Mr A Carr



Mr P Grey



FAQ on optional assessments.

Do I have to take this assessment?

No, we have made it optional.

Do I have to do it in all my subjects?

No, if there are some subjects that you think further evidence would improve your predicted grade, then you can do it in these subjects only.

What if I do badly?

We will take a balanced approach with all of your assessment and if this doesn't reflect your ability we will treat it the same as any other.

What form will the assessments take?

This will depend on each subject, but is likely to be an exam-style assessment like a past paper. Owing to time constraints, it may be a combination of different elements of different papers. The Heads of Department will be able to clarify this prior to the assessments. It will be completed at home.

If I am entitled to extra time will I be given this for these exams?

Yes, but please communicate with the relevant head of Departments/Teachers in advance of the test, so they are aware of this requirement.

What evidence are the exam boards likely to want?

We don't exactly know yet, but it is likely to take into account coursework or other non-examined content, previous assessment (which could include KS2 scores or GCSE grades), teacher assessment and teacher's professional judgement on grades.

Will what I have already be sufficient?

Yes, this new opportunity can be used if you think what you have already doesn't reflect your current ability.

How do I find out what my predicted grade is likely to be with existing evidence?

You will need to contact the relevant Head of Department or your subject teacher. At present, until Ofqual issue us with specific advice, your teacher will use their professional judgement and consider a broad range of assessment you have completed for them throughout the course.

Will they take GCSE grades, KS2 SATs, baseline data into account?

See above. We don't yet know, but it is likely.

Will my predicted grade (U6) or forecast grade (Year 11) be the same as my mock grade?

Not necessarily. Rest assured that your teachers and Heads of Department want to be able to recommend the award of the best possible grade for you. Professional judgement is key here - your teachers know you and know how you have progressed and developed throughout your GCSE, A-Level or BTEC courses.

I have improved a lot since the mocks, how will you take this into account?

Teacher judgement on your current level of attainment is part of the whole process. Taking this optional assessment may help you to prove this to your teachers. It may also be the case that some subjects have done a lot of further exam style assessment post-Mock examinations in January.

How would these assessments be controlled?

We would give you a time limit to return the answers, but in terms of fairness it would be like an open-book test. There is little we can do other than trust you to do it properly. We do know you though, so if your answers suggest you have used a published mark scheme or the internet we may discount the assessment. We hope you understand that in these times, this is the best we can possibly do.

What if I am a pupil living in a different time zone?

Once we have an indication of who wishes to take part in the optional assessments, we will come up with a plan for anyone overseas. Please do not worry about this.

If we do these assessments will they be more important or simply add to the overall picture?

It will be an addition to the overall picture. Obviously this is one further assessment within lots of others, so we will weigh things up based on all the evidence, including this one.

If you decide that you want to do another assessment, and to notify us which subjects you want to do it in, please click the relevant link below, which will take you to an online form. This form also allows you to opt in to other parts of the Home Learning Plan that we have specifically prepared for your year groups. Please see the College website for more details of this programme, links to these pages are also below.

Year 11, click here:

Online home learning hub:

<https://www.plymouthcollege.com/senior-school-11-16-/home-learning-hub>

Form to choose options on assessment and wider programme:

<https://forms.gle/uf8gggSpX9LqdEiAA>

Upper Sixth, click here:

Online home learning hub:

<https://www.plymouthcollege.com/sixth-form-16-18-/home-learning-hub>

Form to choose options on assessment and wider programme:

<https://forms.gle/7R2EFXrutdY8nEZaA>