

11 May 2021

Dear Year 12 students, parents and carers,

May Update

Year 12 Progression Exams

Year 12 students are fast approaching the end of year progression exams. These exams are particularly important as they will inform discussions and decisions about each student's future study in college. They also help to reinforce deep learning, supporting students to establish secure knowledge and understanding of key concepts, ensuring readiness for new and connected subject content in September. For A level courses, progression exams demonstrate readiness to progress into Year 13. For applied general courses, progression exams in most cases contribute to the final grades awarded at the end of Year 13.

Y12 lessons will end on **Tuesday 22 June**. **Wednesday 23 June** is a 'Study at Home' day in preparation for progression exams. Y12 progression exams take place **Thursday 24 to Wednesday 30 June** and during this time students are only required to attend college when they have an exam. Students will shortly be able to access their exam timetables on Cedar. In most cases, progression exams will be 2-hour papers completed in formal examination conditions in the sports hall.

Progression exams will take place for the following courses:

- All A level courses, with the exception of art, photography, textiles and graphics
- All BTEC, CTEC, UAL and WJEC courses, with the exception of public services and games design

For some BTEC, CTEC, UAL and WJEC courses, the progression exam may take the form of a **controlled assessment**. This is usually some form of written assignment completed formally under supervision.

For all BTEC, CTEC and WJEC courses, with the exception of public services and games design, the progression exam and/or controlled assessment will provide evidence for a unit-level Teacher Assessed Grade for units that were due to be assessed externally in January or May of this year and therefore contribute to a student's overall grade at the end of Year 13. We will provide further information about our process for awarding unit-level Teacher Assessed Grades for students in BTEC, CTEC and WJEC courses in due course.

The grades that will be provided for students in art, photography, textiles, graphics, public services and games design in lieu of their progression exams will be based on all of the coursework / portfolio work completed to date. Students studying public services and games design will also be asked to complete an additional assignment during the week of progression exams.

There will not be progression exams or grades for students completing GCSE maths or English resits as those students will be awarded grades from exam boards this summer.

Students are very welcome to attend college throughout the exam period (24-30 June) if they would like to use study facilities such as the Learning Resources Centre. College buses will be running as normal throughout the progression exams.

Progression Day

There will be no lessons after the progression exams have been completed and students are not required to attend college. Students must however attend college to collect their results and have an individual interview at the college's Progression Day on **Friday 9 July**. Attendance on this day is compulsory and students will not be

permitted to continue their studies in Year 13 if they have not completed a progression interview. We will share further details nearer the time about the schedule for Progression Day, along with travel arrangements.

For any students that perform slightly below their minimum target grades there will be consideration of the appropriate next steps, including additional support or additional work. If there are more significant concerns about progress, attendance or behaviour, senior leaders will discuss with students whether continuation of study at New College is appropriate, whether the student is ready to progress into Year 13, or whether a change of programme should be considered. Students will not be able to change their subjects simply upon request.

We know that the vast majority of students will have worked hard in preparation for the progression exams, and throughout the year, and will perform well, and so the interview serves as a good opportunity to reflect positively on the good progress made within the first year of study, and to celebrate great attendance and commitment.

Summer Holidays and Autumn Assessments

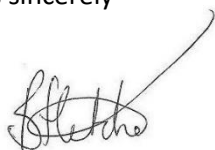
Just as last year, all students will be set a summer independent learning (SIL) activity to complete over the summer holidays for each of their courses. The first formal assessment for Year 13 students will take place early in the autumn term, will include content from Year 12 and may also include content from the summer independent learning activity. Year 13 lessons will resume on **Monday 13 September**, with Year 12 lessons starting in the previous week. Mock exams for Year 13 will this year take place before the Christmas holidays.

How you can support effective revision and learning as a parent

- By encouraging students to use the revision plan they should have developed
- By encouraging students to be revising regularly in manageable chunks of time
- By encouraging students to revisit a revised topic a day later, a week later, a month later
- By encouraging students to regularly test themselves – you might be able to help test them on their knowledge
- By discouraging ineffective revision strategies such as simply reading notes, highlighting and copying – research suggests this has the least impact on learning
- By encouraging effective revision strategies such as testing, summarising, displaying key information in tables, graphics and charts, by discussing topics with another student, through the use of flashcards and by using past exam papers and questions – research suggests these have a very positive impact on learning
- By encouraging students to revisit the revision guidance we've shared with them via Teams
- By encouraging students to stay healthy by getting plenty of sleep and having a good diet
- By encouraging students to explore apps that have been promoted in college, including those to support mental health and wellbeing
- By getting in touch with us if you have any concerns or queries

I hope this information has been useful. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the college if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Brendon Fletcher
Principal