

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

23 March 2021

To students in Years 11 and 13

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Dear Students

The Assessment Phase

The purpose of this letter is to share more information with you about the assessments you will complete in lessons during next half term.

During the last two weeks, teachers have been working hard to plan and prepare assessments, focusing carefully on the elements of your courses that have been covered thoroughly. By the end of this week, we will publish a GCSE, A Level and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQ) assessment schedule, providing you with an overview of when your assessments will take place next half term. Please rest assured that your teachers will prepare you well in lessons and will provide you with appropriate resources to allow you to carry out independent work. Remember, though, that you need to adopt a sensible approach to revision during the Easter break. A couple of hours of focused study each day will be adequate in preparing you well for your assessments.



Most assessments will take place during timetabled lessons and will last no more than 40 minutes. Where it is necessary for an assessment to be longer, it will be spread over two lessons. Students who are entitled to additional time or other measures when sitting examinations will receive the appropriate support for the forthcoming assessments.



I hope the information contained in this letter and the enclosed infographic is helpful and reassuring. It is easy for me to say but.... please, try to maintain a good sense of perspective and healthy work-life balance – looking after yourself well in the coming weeks is a top priority. The most important thing to remember is that you are not sitting exams and the purpose of completing assessments is not to make life difficult; it is to assist your teachers in making fair and accurate judgements, ensuring you receive grades you deserve.



If you need any additional support, please speak up. We are here to help!



With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher





SUMMER TERM ASSESSMENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Not exams, **in class assessments** of no more than **40 minutes** in length.

Do not revise the whole course for each subject – **follow specific revision lists and signposts to resources** to support independent study.

We will do our best to **spread assessments** throughout assessment weeks.

Do not worry if you miss an assessment for genuine reasons – where required, opportunities for **catch up** will be provided.

Assessments will be a **considerably lighter burden** than full GCSE / A Level exams (in terms of the length of assessments and the content they cover).

You will be given **support in preparing for assessments** within lessons.

Don't compare how you are being assessed with how friends in other schools are being assessed – all schools will use different approaches and lighter or easier assessment of students in some school will not lead to better results.

There will be **no surprises** – you will be made aware of the content covered in each assessment.

Different subjects will prepare and assess students in different ways. However, **the experience of all students within a subject will be the same.**

NEA (practical performance and coursework) will definitely be used alongside assessments to inform grades.

Work hard but pace yourself over the next two months.