

Next Week - Week 1

From the Headteacher

It has been wonderful to welcome your children back to school this week and to see them settling back into the routines of school life so well. They have also adapted, with great maturity, to the additional, new measures we have put in place to help keep them all safe. The Lateral Flow Testing is running smoothly and all consenting students will complete their third test by Thursday 18 March. Details of the Home Testing programme can be found in the separate letter attached.

I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who has played such a significant part in our return to full in-school provision this week.

In the meantime, planning for how we will implement grading for Year 11 and Year 13 qualifications this summer continues apace. Whilst we await further guidance from the exam boards around Easter, teachers will continue to deliver learning and assess students' progress, so that we continue to compile further evidence that might be used in any final grade calculation - it is therefore vital that students in these year groups continue to work to their best ability. Can I thank everyone - parents, students and staff - for their patience. We will provide further communications as and when we are able. **Additional information can be found on page 2 and 3 of today's e-Bulletin.**

Safeguarding and national lockdown guidance

Please do discuss with your child the need to maintain social distancing to and from school, and that they should not be congregating in Berkhamsted town centre. It is also recommended that students wear masks when leaving the premises (and especially if waiting to be collected from the turning circle at the end of school, where social distancing is difficult). As a reminder, current lockdown restrictions state:

You can leave your home to exercise or to visit a public outdoor place for outdoor recreation, such as a coffee on a bench or a picnic in a park. This can be on your own, with one other person when in a public outdoor place, or with your household or support bubble.

You should minimise the time you spend outside your home, and you should not travel outside your local area. Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble and follow the guidance on how to stop the spread of coronavirus at all times. Full guidance can be found [here](#).

DSPL

- The Spring Term communication form DSPL8 for Parents/Carers of students with learning needs can be found [here](#).
- The March edition of *YCH projects for young people across Dacorum* can be accessed [here](#).

Key dates:





- 18 March: Y7 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening, online
- 26 March: Last Day of Term
- 12 April: Back to School

Please note, non-uniform day will be rescheduled in the Summer Term

Letters Out:

- Y7 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening Info
- Home Testing Letter

House Points:

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
23874	24655	23817	23946
3 rd	1 st	4 th	2 nd
			

12/03/2021

Music Tuition:

Face-to-face lessons will resume after Easter. Where possible, online lessons will continue for the last two weeks of term. HMS teachers should have contacted you regarding the scheduling of any online lessons.

If your child is interested in taking music lessons, please go to [Music Lessons Info](#).

If you wish to withdraw or change music lessons for September 2021, please email SchoolsDirectInvoicing@hertfordshire.gov.uk by **MONDAY 17th MAY**. All other music tuition enquiries should go to musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

Parental Support: please see the latest from 'Tooled Up' [here](#), on bereavement, books for brilliant girls, and much more.

Turn on the Subtitles

Turning on the subtitles while watching television can double students' chances of becoming good at reading. It can support students who are learning English as an additional language too. If you would like to know more about the campaign and view the research behind it - do click the [link](#).

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

For a timetable of all the lunchtime and after school sports clubs please click [here](#).

ASA News:

Easter Wreaths and Baskets - order deadline extended to Friday 19th March

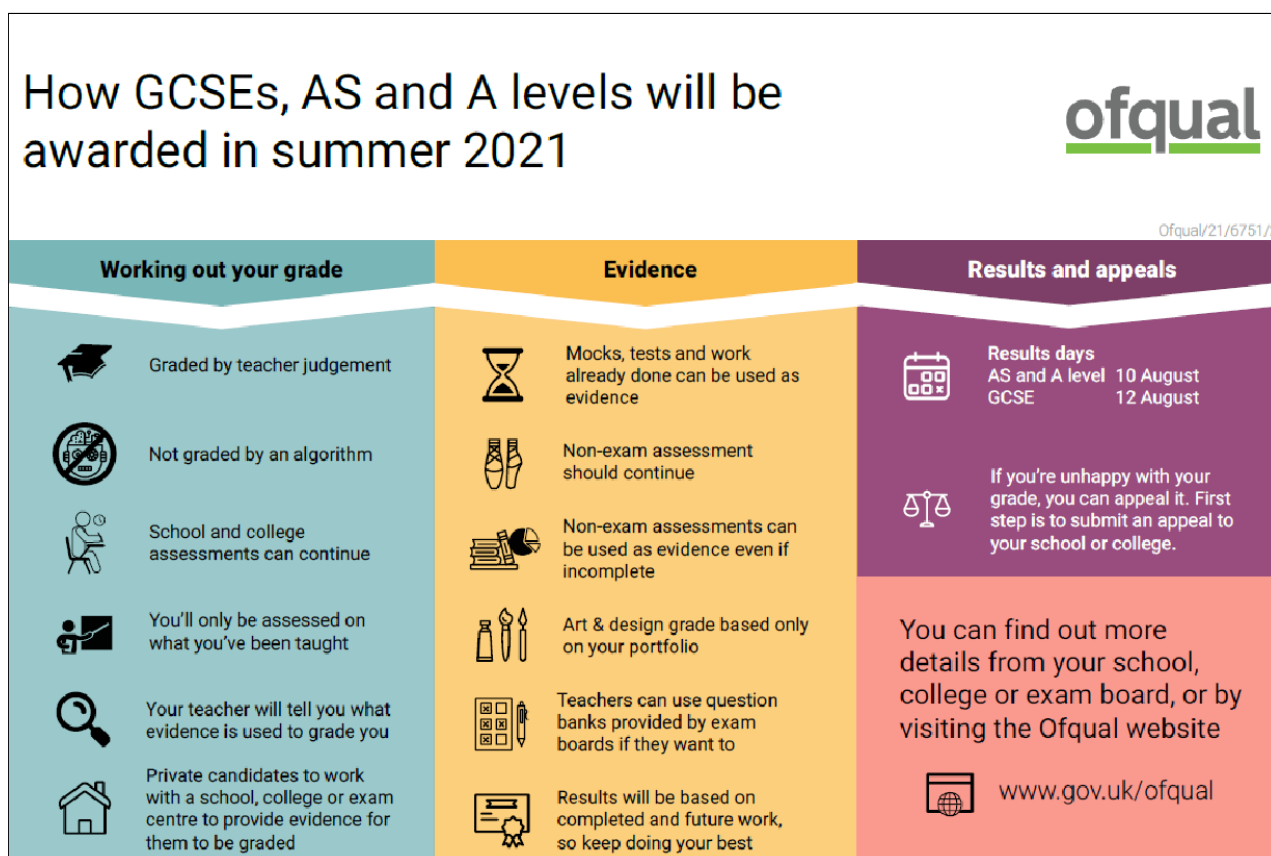
We have two fantastic kits for you, to help raise money for the ASA and school, and in time to celebrate Easter - everything you need to create some beautiful arrangements.

EASTER KITS - [click here for basket kit](#), [click here for wreath kit](#)

Year 11 and Year 13 Grading

Further to the [summary guidance](#) found in the [TBulletin \(26.2.21\)](#), which outlined the alternative arrangements for the award of GCSEs, A levels and VTQs in 2021, we want to take this opportunity to clarify the school's role and update you on next steps.

You will be aware that Ofqual has provided some initial direction on the process to be used in awarding GCSE/BTEC and A-level qualifications this summer. The infographic below provides a useful 'at glance' summary of the main stages of the process. You might also wish to read [this article](#) written by Ofqual for students and parents.



We recognise that the changes to examination plans have caused some level of anxiety and concern for Year 11 and Year 13 students as well as their families. The overarching aim is that students can get the grades they deserve and can move onto their next stage of education, employment or training. The infographic outlines that this must be evidence-based: Ofqual will implement a process of quality assurance and checking of the school processes and the standards of work used to ensure consistency within and between schools. In addition, Ofqual has directed the exam boards to produce further guidance, materials and training to ensure the process is as fair as possible - and these materials will give more guidance at individual subject level. These materials will not be published until the end of March

and, whilst teachers are already looking at evidence that *might* be used, the school will not make final decisions until this guidance is published. Therefore, until we receive this specific guidance, it is essential that students continue to work hard, complete all work set by their teachers and respond to feedback. This may include covering new content if teachers feel that will place students in the most advantageous situation for displaying their knowledge and skills.

The other key principle the DfE has stressed is that this system allows for students to be taught for as long as possible, to mitigate for the impact of the pandemic on their learning.

We would be grateful if students, parents and carers would avoid contacting subject teachers or departments with specific queries about evidence and grades as they will be unable to give a firm answer to these questions. We will be in contact in due course once we have received the guidance from the exam boards to explain next steps and clarify the situation regarding permissible evidence.

Parents/ carers of students in Year 10 and 12 have also, understandably, expressed some concerns. At the moment, there have been no decisions made by the DfE, but we understand the chief Regulator at Ofqual has suggested there may be 'adaptations' to the content students are expected to cover. When this is communicated, we will of course share this and update the curriculum plans accordingly