

08<sup>th</sup> February 2021

To: Parents/Carers and Students of years 11 and 13

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

I am writing to you about the start of our preparation for teacher assessed grades (TAGs). This is the name of the process by which students will receive their final grades in their GCSE or A level exams this year.

The consultation on how GCSE and A level grades will be awarded this year has now closed. Schools, parents/carers and students will not receive feedback until at least 22<sup>nd</sup> February and according to current media reports there will be no wholesale return of students until 8<sup>th</sup> March. However, there is one key thread running through the consultation... any grade awarded must be evidenced with student work and this work is most likely to be in the form of a controlled assessment in the style of that specific subject.

We want every WLA student to be fully prepared for these assessments. To support this, over the next two weeks we will be rolling out our 'Stepping Stones to Success' strategy. This will focus on ensuring that every student in year 11 and 13 knows:

1. How to revise for assessments
2. How to plan their revision time
3. The best techniques for each subjects
4. What to revise
5. How to access past paper questions and mark schemes
6. The best resources for each subjects

We will also look to hold an online support event for parents/carers and students to attend virtually after the consultation reports back so that we can keep everyone informed and prepared on how grades will be awarded this year.

Due to the expected route of how grades are to be awarded this year we are currently unable to provide predicted grades to students, parents and external agencies until the consultation has published clearer information on the legal process. If you would like us to confirm this with any organisation please contact me on [simpsonbk@westlakesmat.org.uk](mailto:simpsonbk@westlakesmat.org.uk) and we will undertake this for you. This does not impact on UCAS or post any 16 application processes whereby data received from Update One can be used.

Finally, as we know the preparation for terminal assessments is best achieved over a long period of time and in small chunks we will be starting to set revision tasks for students in year 11 and 13 students. We would expect these to be completed outside of lesson times. These will be based around the revision tasks that we know work best for students. To support this I have included a copy of 'How to Revise the WLA Way.'

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If you have any questions about this please contact me on the email above,

Yours faithfully



Barry Simpson

**Vice Principal**

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# HOW TO REVISE THE WLA WAY

## Use flashcards



Write the question on one side and the answer on the other. Test yourself before you turn the card over. Split your cards into three piles:

- Answers you got right easily – test yourself again in a week
- Answers you got right but found hard or missed some bits – test yourself again in a couple of days
- Questions you couldn't answer correctly – test yourself again tomorrow.

## Space your revision



Start planning early for exams and set aside a little bit of time every day. Five hours spread out over two weeks is better than five hours all at once. Switch between ideas during a study session. Don't study one idea for too long. Go back over the ideas again in different orders to strengthen your understanding. Make links between different ideas as you switch between them.

## Transform the information



Change a paragraph of text into a diagram, or a diagram into bullet points, or bullet points into a mind map, or ... you get the idea!

## Explain it



Talk through your work as you do it, explaining your thinking along the way. Tell someone else what you know about the topic. Teach it to them and then test their understanding, helping them if they get stuck.

## Answer past exam questions



Speaks for itself really. Once you're done, compare your answer to a model answer and then redraft it to make it even better. Hand it in to your teacher to get some further feedback.

## Elaborate



Explain and describe ideas with many details. State a fact and then explain why it is true.

## Quiz yourself



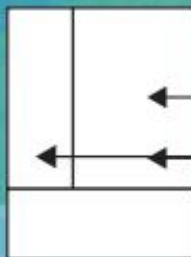
Test yourself. Get someone else to test you. Use an app like Tassomai to test you.

## Dual code it



When you are looking over your revision materials, find visuals that go along with the information. How do the visuals represent what is described in the text? Take the words from revision materials and draw your own visuals to go along with them.

## Make Cornell notes



Notes

Cues

Summary

## Create concept maps



VENN



SPIDER MAP



SEQUENTIAL  
THINKING  
MODEL



MIND MAP

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