

22nd May 2020



**The Queen Elizabeth
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”

Parents and Carers of TQEA Year 10 students

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

For the past few weeks, students have been working diligently on our TQEA Subject Learning Grids. Engagement levels have been very high with over 85% of Y10 students completing tasks online. Feedback from parents has been positive and we are very grateful for your support. Although the Subject Learning Grids have been successful and are a body of work we are proud of, it is now time to evolve the remote learning offer to ensure students are motivated by new learning opportunities.

From June 1st there will be three parts to our approach:

1. New learning tasks set weekly by subject teachers (this will replace the learning grids)
2. A programme of Y10 assessments
3. Some face-to-face support when the government says it is safe to do so

New Learning Tasks

TQEA students will move into the next wave of learning which will have a greater focus on ‘new’ knowledge and skills. We are retaining the existing learning timetable, meaning that students will still be expected to complete two hours of Maths, English and Science per week, and one hour per week for other subjects.

When planning new learning tasks, teachers have been asked to consider these five teaching and learning principles:

- Activate
- Review
- Explain
- Practice
- Reflect.

Subjects will set their learning differently, but they will adhere to these five principles. This will mean there will be tasks that require students to recall previous learning before they begin to receive new knowledge. There will be part of a lesson where students read or listen to instruction, before they then apply their new learning by completing a task. Finally, students will be encouraged to have a moment of reflection or review on what has been learnt.

All learning will be set on Google Classroom and will be updated each week. Alternative learning resources will be posted home to students who have no internet access.

Y10 Assessments

We find ourselves in challenging times, where health, wellbeing and income are likely to be our most pressing concerns. Nevertheless, in less than 12 months’ time your child is likely to be sitting their final GCSE examinations.

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To safeguard their wellbeing and their future, and must do everything we can to prepare them for the academic challenges ahead. It is important that we know where students' strengths and weaknesses are so teachers can plan an effective catch-up curriculum for next year and students can focus on priority areas for their own individual learning.

To this end, we have prepared a set of GCSE style Y10 assessments that test how well students have learnt and mastered the knowledge and skills taught from the start of Y9 to the time lockdown began. These would usually be completed in the school hall as part of the preparation for Y11. Clearly that is not possible this year and we will be asking for your support in encouraging students to complete these assessments at home. We recognise that this isn't ideal for a number of reasons, but we believe that the potential gains outweigh the challenges.

Key points:

- There will be a two week 'Y10 Assessment' period from 15th June to 26th June.
- During this time, new learning activities will be suspended and students should concentrate on completing the assessments.
- A suggested timetable will be prepared to help both students and parents/carers. Students will be emailed this shortly and it will be available on our website.
- To help students revise, a list of the topics studied so far will be provided.
- Most assessments can be done electronically (on Word) and submitted to the class teacher via email. Any assessments that have to be done on paper should be submitted when students return to school.

How you can help your child:

- Encourage them to prepare for these assessments by revising the knowledge and skills learnt so far.
- Where possible, try to provide a quiet place for them to do the assessments without distractions such as phones or the internet.
- Talk to them about the importance of doing the assessments properly and honestly showing what they can and can't do (we will be emailing them to do the same!).
- If students are missing books or revision materials (as they may be at school), encourage them to email their teacher for help.

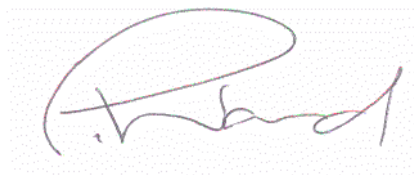
Face To Face Support

Government guidance is being updated daily and there is much speculation in the press about a return to school for Y10. By the time this letter reaches you we may know more but for now all we can say is we hope to offer some face-to-face support when it is safe to do so. As our CEO wrote recently 'please be assured that whatever happens every decision will be made making sure that the safety of our pupils and our staff remains the absolute priority'. We will keep you updated; please bear with us.

If, at any point, you need support or guidance, or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact the subject teachers, the Head of Year Mrs Morris (a.morris@tqea.org.uk) or myself (p.ward@tqea.org.uk).

Please stay safe and continue to follow Government guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Ward
Deputy Principal
The Queen Elizabeth academy