



19<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents/Carers and Students in years 11 and 13,

It has been a joy to see the students back in school and engaging in lessons face to face with teachers once more. Some students will settle back in the school routines quickly, for others it might take a little longer, but rest assured we are all here to support them.

I write to you today to provide you with a reminder and an update on how on the assessments process here at PHSG, and within the wider TSAT Trust, will run for the remainder of this academic year.

You will recall that we are working in partnership with our colleagues at TSAT, and have previously shared with you the red, amber, green, (RAA+G system) that will enable us to decide how work produced by students will count towards the Centre Assessed Grades (CAG).

The guide below illustrates our thinking on how pieces of work will fit into the RAA+G system.

RAG	Meaning of RAG	Examples
R	Work completed at home under no time pressures. Work being completed is based on specification content but might not be based on exam style material.	Worksheet Google quiz or form Homework task Online platform
A	Work completed at home under no time pressure, BUT based on exam style material	Exam questions Whole past papers
A+	Work completed at home, under a strict time, where all questions are of exam style material	Exam questions Past papers End of Year 10 or 12 assessments that were completed last summer NEA work completed at home.
G	Exams or exam style questions completed under exam conditions in school	Mocks in year 11, work completed in school after lockdown under test conditions. NEA work completed in lessons

We have planned the three-week rolling programme of assessments. Not all lessons will be assessments, but if a subject wishes to set an assessment it will fall in the week stated below for their given subject. Teachers will provide a revision list and materials in the two weeks leading up to each assessment so that the students can both prepare in lessons with the teacher, as well as completing independent work at home in preparation for these assessments.

The plan below has been put together to try and spread out the assessments based on the option choices of students in GCSE and A' Level. Every effort has been made to ensure that this spread is equitable for all, but there might a few students where one week is slightly "heavier" with assessments than another

### **Year 11 starting on the 15th March**

Week 1 = Science, History, Technology, Computing

Week 2 = English, RE, French, German, Drama

Week 3 = Maths, Geography, Music, PE

Week 4 = Science, History, Art, Technology, Computing  
etc

### **Year 13 starting after Easter, post mocks**

Week 1 = Psychology, Chemistry, RE, French, German, PE, Geography

Week 2 = Biology, Maths, Art, Law, History

Week 3 = Physics, English, Business, Product Design

Week 4 = Psych, Chemistry, RE, French, German, PE, Geography

(Students in art with continue to work on their coursework pieces and portfolios in all lessons.)

Once an assessment has been completed by the students, it will be marked by the class teacher and will then undergo a moderation process within the department and across the TSAT family of schools. This moderation process ensures that mark schemes have been interpreted correctly by all teachers so that there is a fairness in the marking by all, for all. Once this process has been completed, the raw scores or percentage for the assessment will be shared with students, but not the grade. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Grade boundaries set by examination boards are done so assuming that the assessment covers the full specification, in some subjects this may well be the case with the green assessments being given to the students, but in other subjects it might not. If some subjects give grades and others do not this can cause confusion and frustration.
- If the students were sitting real examinations they would receive no feedback in between each set of papers and would not get any feedback of any type until 3 months later on the results day in August.
- It is the totality of marks across a number of assessments that will indicate the final overall grade for a student in a given subject, not one assessment piece. If a student was to sit three assessments and achieve a grade 5, a grade 9 and a grade 6, they could not be sure what their overall grade was going to be and this might cause more anxiety and confusion than not giving a grade at all.

Staff will provide verbal feedback to the class about positives that can be taken from the assessment and common misconceptions that might need to be addressed before the next green assessment in the three-week cycle.

We encourage all students to continue to work hard in lessons, whether in a revision, assessment or review lesson. They should also think about what extra study may be necessary between now and the summer to work towards achieving the grades they are hoping for, and focus on any areas for improvement identified by teachers in either school reports or on marked work returned.

Yours sincerely



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Assistant Headteacher

