

19 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Upcoming key dates

Thursday 1 April 2021:	Last day of term. Students dismissed by 12.30pm
Monday 19 April 2021:	Term starts for all students.
Friday 28 May 2021:	Last day of term (normal finish time) Provisional 'last day' for Year 11 and 13
Monday 7 June 2021:	Term starts for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

Year 11 and 13 examination information

As I write, we are still awaiting confirmation from OfQUAL in relation to final arrangements and appeals in respect of the summer awarded grades, however I did want to share with you some information from OfQUAL this morning.

OfQUAL interim chair, Ian Bauckham, has said that parents should not try to “negotiate” or “interfere” with teachers over A-level and GCSE grades this summer. Speaking to the Association of School and College Leaders conference, he said that it would be “wrong and fundamentally unfair” if the given grades were subject to pressure from either pupils or their families. Mr Bauckham added that it would “risk discrediting the process” and could lead to students being given places at universities or sixth-form colleges “for which they were ill-prepared”. He said that transparency surrounding how the grades are determined does not mean that the grades are “topics for negotiation”.

Last year OfQUAL specified that any such contact could represent exam malpractice. As I have said, we are still waiting for the guidance which we will share as soon as possible, however in the interest of openness, I wanted to share the information above to support any discussion you wish to have in relation to your child’s progress, which we are happy to have with you.

You will also notice that we have now published the date of a provisional last day for both year 11 and year 13, however this could be subject to change if the guidelines require it. Also, all students must be available up to and including 18 June 2021, which is the date the school must submit final grades.

We are planning to offer a year 12 transition programme in the summer term, and will share details soon.

Building work update

I am delighted to report that both the window project at Tonbridge and building works at Sevenoaks are progressing apace. The Sevenoaks works will continue into the summer as we create the additional spaces we will need for year 11, and then for our sixth form.

Headteacher: Mrs E Bone BA (Hons), MA
Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JP
Tel: 01732 373 500
Email: school@wealdgs.org
wealdgs.org

Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust
Charity, incorporated in England and Wales
Registration Number 7451660, Limited by Guarantee

Lateral flow testing

Our onsite testing team have been amazing, and the first groups of students will be coming home with their 'at home' kits from today.

Also, there has been clarification from Kent that any students who return a positive Lateral Flow Test, regardless of where that test was sat, must isolate pending a PCR test. The result of the PCR will determine any further action required.

If you would like to order tests for you and your family, please use the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Our students have continued to be astonishing in their ability to adapt and their resilience to keep working to their very best. It has been a joy to see them all in school again.

I do hope you have a restful weekend, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Bone
Headteacher