



Home Testing / Year 11 and 13 Assessment update / other key reminders

31 March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all well as we approach the Easter holidays. Once again, we can look back on a successful Spring Term with a great deal of pride in what we've achieved together. I've been delighted with the way everyone has approached the return of face to face education and the students have shown great resilience and maturity. We've all learnt a great deal from the experience of the last 12 months and, after the holidays, I'm looking forward to some consultation with you about how we move forward from here and offer the very best service we can to our community. In the meantime, here are some important updates...

Year 11 and 13 Assessment (Mr Cowgill has the following update):

We have now received further guidance from Ofqual and exam boards regarding the awarding of teacher assessed grades (TAGs) this summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that submitted grades will be determined against a national standard set by the exam boards and are subject to internal and external moderation. Please can I ask parents and students not to contact subject staff regarding individual grades. Instead, can all queries please be sent to exams@ralphthoresby.com.

An evidence portfolio is required for all subjects. Heads of Department have decided on the combination of evidence that is required for their subject. We have collated an assessment timetable for all subjects that have chosen to use evidence from future in-class assessments. We have also developed an area for subject specific guidance and revision materials on our website.

The assessment timetable will be used to populate Arbor. Each student will be able to see their individual assessment timetable through the student portal. Parents will also have access to this through the parent portal. The assessment timetable will include the date, period, subject, title and, where appropriate, which topics are covered. It is vital that all students, and parents, have access to the appropriate Arbor Portal. Further guidance can be found on the school website by following the link: <https://www.ralphthoresby.co.uk/arbor-student-portal/> or <https://www.ralphthoresby.co.uk/arbor-parent-portal/>

The website includes an assessment overview with a link to the full assessment timetable and additional guidance. Each subject also has a page which will be populated with subject specific guidance and a link to revision resources: <https://www.ralphthoresby.co.uk/assessment-2020-21/>.

We are currently populating Arbor and the school website, both of these will be fully updated by the original date of Friday 23rd April, although much of it will be completed well before this date.

All assessment information, including extensive revision resources, has been shared with the students via their subject Teams.





Below is a timeline of important dates for students:

Date	Action
Thursday 1 st April	Letter from Mr Carr. Departments share information on assessment and revision with students.
Friday 23 rd April	Assessment plan complete on Arbor. Website updated with all subject specific guidance.
Monday 19 th April – Friday 28 th May	KS4 and KS5 Assessment window. Lesson 7 used to catch-up students who miss assessments.
Friday 28 th May	All assessments finished – Y11 and Y13 Stand-down (but remain formally on role until the end of June).
Monday 7 th June – Friday 18 th June	Students who have missed assessment or need to complete coursework will attend school in order to ensure sufficient evidence has been collected. All grades entered with exam boards.

I hope this letter answers any questions you may have about the awarding of grades in the summer. As always, we will continue to do our best to support all students in achieving success at RTS. If you have any further questions, please contact me via email: gcowgill@ralphthoresby.com phone: 01133979905

Home testing:

For parents and carers who have given consent, we have now moved to twice-weekly rapid COVID-19 testing at home. Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week, 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before. We are recommending testing on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Your child should also continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.





Reporting results:

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do this at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Please also report your result with school using testregister.co.uk/join as detailed in the letter sent home with the first home testing kits. It is important that you continue to inform school if your child tests positive so that we can take immediate action.

During the Easter holidays, please report any positive test result via the email headteacher@ralphthoresby.com. We will be in touch as soon as we can for contact tracing purposes (the school is responsible for this for the first six days of the holiday: April 2nd - 7th).

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week:

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by ordering tests online: www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests.

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing. If you have any queries regarding home testing please email covid19testing@ralphthoresby.com

School Uniform and PE Kit:

Students should be in full school uniform throughout the day when they have PE. There is an exceptional circumstance where a Y9 and Y10 class do not have access to the changing rooms. On this occasion, these students alone are permitted to wear their standard PE kit to school. In addition, we will continue to allow students to arrive at school in PE kit if they have PE period 2 (then change back into uniform at the end of the lesson). Students who have PE period 6 will be allowed to leave school in PE kit.

Safer Schools Police Officer:

Many of you are aware of the excellent positive policing work of our Safer Schools Officer, PC Groves. I would just like to make you aware that, in line with Police Officers nationally, PC Groves will now be wearing a bodycam at times around school.

Finally, I do hope you can all enjoy the Easter break as restrictions begin to be lifted. In so many ways I think we can all start to be optimistic about the future for the RTS community. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Will Carr, Headteacher.

