



KANTOR KING SOLOMON HIGH SCHOOL

14th April 2021

Headteacher

Ms Hannele Reece BA (Hons),
NPQH

Dear parent/guardian,

I hope that you were able to take some time out and relax over the Spring Break, I wanted to get in contact to let you have an update on some important issues relating specifically to students in year 11 and 13.

- Teacher assessed grades As you are aware students are beginning their final assessment period now, this will run for this half term. All students have been provided with a timetable of their assessments and the topics covered. Students will mainly be completing these assessments in class however students with specific access arrangements may have slightly different arrangements. All who this applies to know where and when their assessments will take place. All students should also know exactly what data will go towards their final grade in every subject. If you are not sure how your child is being assessed, then please sit with them, and look at their Teams area together where all the information is located. If you need further information, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.
- Kantor King Solomon High School's teacher assessed grade policy – before the spring break I sent out a copy of our teacher assessed grades policy. Towards the end of our holiday the JCQ authority issued a draft policy for schools to opt into. Use of this policy forms the basis of the first layer of the quality assurance process and so we have chosen to adopt this policy. In reality very little of it is different to our original policy however it looks different and there are some minor additions. It is attached to this letter and will be put up on the website.
- Undue pressure on teachers – The vast majority of our year 11 and 13 students have had a great start to this half term despite the stress of dealing with their assessments and the impact of the pandemic on their examinations. Unfortunately, we have had two incidents where parents or students have placed undue pressure on teachers about the formulation of their teacher assessed grade. I know that all parents want is the best opportunity for their children, and that all our students want is the best possible grade to help them take their next steps. If you or your child need support or a better understanding of how the process works, please contact either your child's teacher or the pastoral team but please can I ask that you restrict your requests to support for your child in the form of intervention or understanding how they will be assessed. Please do not put any undue pressure on any school staff, such pressure will be recorded, action will be taken by myself and if need be, I will report the student to the JCQ authority who will investigate any claims of malpractice, harassment or bullying regarding teacher assessed grades. I am sure this will not be necessary, but it is important to ensure clarity around this.
- Celebrating the end of their courses and leaving dates The DfE have taken the decision not to change the formal end of school leaving date for examination students, even though their assessment periods finish earlier than normal because of the TAG process. As a result of this,

as a local authority we will be making these decisions together however as many schools are still on holiday these decisions will not be taken until the end of April formally. At King Solomon our intention is the following:

- Year 13 – Mr. Judge will be talking with year 13 to find out what sort of final leaving celebration they would like given the Covid-19 restrictions. Depending on what they say we will put something in place at the end of this half term. It is likely that the requirement for year 13 students full time will not carry on past the end of their last assessment period however I will confirm this following discussion with the local authority. After the half term we hope to put on extra support for any student who we feel needs intervention to bring their knowledge in their chosen subject up to the normal place for a student about to start university and to offer some opportunities for enrichment such as sessions on how to prepare for university or the working world post Covid and the opportunity for some organised sports and cultural sessions. We will be surveying students to find out what they would like, and further details will follow. All of these will be subject to adequate take up. It goes without saying that students whose behaviour declines during this term will not be allowed to remain on site.

- Year 11 – the year 11 students will have an informal social get together at the end of this half term including a celebration assembly and pizza party in school (in line with Covid regulations). They will also be receiving leavers hoodies this week which they may wear from next week instead of their blazers. It is likely that the requirement for year 11 students full time will not carry on past the end of their last assessment period however I will confirm this following discussion with the local authority. Year 11 will be required to come into school on a part time basis after this date to ensure they are ready for transition into year 12, to complete their pre 6th Form induction and to complete intervention lessons in subjects they intend to take at A-Level where their knowledge needs supplementing because of the national school closures. We will also be offering a variety of enrichment activities ranging from sports events to social events and the opportunities to engage in some of the extra-curricular activities they have lost because of the pandemic. We will be surveying students to find out what they would like, and further details will follow. All of these will be subject to adequate take up. It goes without saying that students whose behaviour declines during this term will not be allowed access to the enrichment or the end of course party and seriously poor behaviour may lead to exclusion or loss of their 6th Form place.

- Results days - more information will follow later in the term but a reminder that these are on:
 - GCSE and other level two qualifications – Thursday 12th August 2021
 - A-Level and other level three qualifications – Tuesday 10th August 2021

I wish all our students' good luck in their assessments and encourage them all to take every opportunity that comes their way. I know that at this time of year even in the best of times this is a very stressful period for all the families of students taking exams and I also wish you good luck and the fortitude to see your children through this latest stage of their lives. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support in any way.

Yours sincerely


Ms H Reece
Headteacher

KANTOR
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CAMPUS

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