



**HEDDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

5 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 13 Topic Tests

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you about the upcoming topic tests that year 13 students will be taking after half term. As I am sure you are aware the Government announced that A level examinations would be cancelled in the summer to be replaced by teacher assessed grades.

As part of an ongoing assessment process, students in year 13 will be given a series of topic tests between now and the end of the year that will form part of their final grade alongside historical assessment data from year 12 and any coursework elements. This will replace any notion of a central formal "Mock Week". The first set of topic tests will be taking place the week beginning the 22nd February. These tests will be completed online and will need to be uploaded on completion to the relevant subject Microsoft teams page. A timetable of the week will be published and sent home next week.

As a school we feel that these topic tests are a more appropriate format of assessment under current circumstances. Tests will be completed in most subjects, but not all, and will be a maximum of 1 hour 30 minutes in length. Students that would normally have extra time in an exam will still be entitled to this in these tests. There will only be one paper per subject. Students have been told in advance what the topic of each test will be. This is to give them time to revise over the next few weeks before taking the tests after half term. Teachers are also building in time in their lessons to cover revision and revisit appropriate content. This first set of topic tests will only cover content covered before the school was forced to close before Christmas.

It is important to note that these tests in isolation do not inform Teacher Assessed Grades. Rather they are a piece in the larger "jigsaw" of assessments conducted over a wider period of time that build a holistic view of student ability and understanding. Although Government consultation over processes to be used to generate Teacher Assessed Grades has been completed, we are yet to receive confirmation of the outcome of these talks.

I felt it was important to include a list of each of the topics that will be covered for you to see as well.

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After the tests, the school will be organising a series of academic mentoring meetings with each student to discuss their academic progress and to look at strengths and areas for development moving forward. More details will follow about these mentoring meetings.

If you have any questions about these tests or anything else, please feel free to email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory Hyde', written in a cursive style.

Rory Hyde
Leader of Sixth Form