

Sent via Email

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Thursday, 18th February, 2021

Dear Parents,

Information for examination year groups

We have now had confirmation that all public examinations for our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been cancelled for Summer 2021.

This is exceptionally disappointing given the significant investment of hard work over the course of the last two years by all of our students. We know that had they been given the opportunity to sit public examinations, Rossall students would have excelled.

Examinations are an important part of validating learning, providing closure and ensuring that progress onto next steps is built upon strong and certain foundations. Completion of courses is likewise essential as sixth form and university courses are based around expectations of knowledge and skills acquired over the entirety of a qualification.

Our intention, therefore, is to ensure that for all of our students in Year 11 and Year 13, the impact due to loss of public examinations is minimised and that, as much as possible, we endeavour to replicate the learning experiences we know to be so important for securing the best possible start to the next stage of their lives in September 2021. We will therefore be running Rossall Diploma examinations this summer and details of when these will take place are outlined below.

Our experience of running the Rossall Diploma last academic year for the outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 was that students appreciated it, took it exceptionally seriously, relished the opportunity to demonstrate all of their learning and were glad of evidence of grades achieved through exams that they did sit; distinguishing them quite substantially from those whose learning and efforts ceased at the start of last year's lockdown.

Predicted Grades

For all qualifications, Rossall teachers will be required to submit predicted grades and in some cases evidence of work undertaken by students. We have thought carefully about how to ensure that the evidence we provide is robust, timely and presents the successes of our students in the best possible light.

Dependent on the qualification, there may well be requirements or guidance as to how predicted grades should be arrived at. We will of course ensure that we meet any such requirements within the context of our robust systems of academic tracking and monitoring offering a wide range of evidence to help us arrive at the most accurate and appropriate grade for each student. The process we employed last year was exceptionally successful in establishing grades that were truly reflective of the hard work we know our students have put in and we will follow similar steps this year to ensure absolute fairness and consistency. We would like to reassure all students that their predicted grades will never be the result of any one assessment or examination but will instead encompass a range of data including teacher assessments based on homework and classwork as well as attainment grades and likely outcome grades awarded over the course of the two years of study.



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Year 11 Main School

Whilst we wait for the outcome of the Ofqual consultation due on Monday 22nd February we know that exam boards will ask schools to submit predicted grades and may well provide assessment tasks the school can use to support judgements. It is likely that any such data will be requested at the start of June and so both the mock exams and the Rossall Diploma exams provide an opportunity for students to evidence their learning and progress. Where coursework forms part of the overall grade, it is likely that this will need to be submitted as evidence.

Mock Exams: Wednesday 17th March - Friday 26th March

Course content to be assessed in
Rossall Diploma completed by: Friday 30th April

Rossall Diploma exams: Monday 17th May - Friday 28th May

Pre Sixth Form programme: Monday 7th June - Friday 25th June

Year 11 International Courses pathway

Performance in the International Courses pathway Mock Exams and in the Rossall Diploma exams will be used to determine subjects for which students will be entered for public exam validation. Our examinations, rather than the grade submitted to the public exam awarding bodies, will be used to determine progression onto appropriate Sixth Form courses at Rossall.

Mock Exams: Monday 22nd February - Friday 26th February

Course content to be assessed in
Rossall Diploma completed by: Friday 7th May

Rossall Diploma exams: Monday 17th May - Friday 28th May

Pre Sixth Form programme: Monday 7th June - Friday 25th June

Year 13 A-level/BTEC

Whilst we wait for the outcome of the Ofqual consultation due on Monday 22nd February we know that exam boards will ask schools to submit predicted grades and may well provide assessment tasks the school can use to support judgements. It is likely that any such data will be requested at the start of June and so both the mock exams and the Rossall Diploma exams provide an opportunity for students to evidence their learning and progress. Where coursework forms part of the overall grade, it is likely that this will need to be submitted as evidence.

Mock Exams: Wednesday 17th March - Friday 26th March

Course content to be assessed in
Rossall Diploma completed by: Friday 30th April

Rossall Diploma exams: Monday 17th May - Friday 28th May

Pre University programme: Monday 7th June - Friday 25th June



Year 13 IB

It has been made clear that the IB will use an algorithm in order to determine grades awarded. This algorithm will take into account student performance in their IAs as well as school predicted grades. In order to ensure that we put forward the best possible case for each student, we have adapted our plan for the half term. Please note that after the Easter break we will go back to teaching content with a view to it being assessed through the Rossall Diploma exams. This will be an additional piece of evidence for all of our IB students showing that they have sat exams; we believe that this will be useful if and when being compared against students in other countries who, unlike those in the UK, will have had the opportunity to sit the official IB exams.

Completion of IAs, EEs and other IB paperwork: Monday 22nd Feb - Fri 5th March

Final deadline for all IAs, EEs and IB paperwork: Monday 8th March

Teacher led revision: Monday 8th March - Tuesday 16th March

Mock Exams: Wednesday 17th March - Friday 26th March

Course content completion: Friday 7th May

Rossall Diploma exams: Monday 17th May - Friday 28th May

Pre University programme: Monday 7th June - Friday 25th June

Details regarding the specifics of each exam series will be communicated with pupils in due course but should you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's head of year.

Best wishes,



Dina Porovic
Senior Deputy Head

