



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
Portland, Dorset. DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262
Email: Office@atlantic-aspirations.org

www.atlantic-aspirations.org

9th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 January examination period

As we approach the end of term, it is fair to say our Year 11s have worked incredibly hard and deserve a Christmas rest - I am sure you will agree. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given the academy in supporting your child.

Upon the return to the academy in the new year, I wanted to make you aware of a few key dates across the first weeks back.

Inset Day

On Monday, January 4th, we have an academy wide inset day; therefore, the first day for students is Tuesday 5th January.

January Mock examinations

In order to further support our Year 11 students, we will be holding a **Mock examination window in January**. This gives students a chance to sit examination papers in real GCSE conditions. These examinations will be taking place between 18th and 29th January and further details will be circulated in January.

BTEC Final examinations

Running alongside the mock examinations, some students will be participating in sitting their final and real GCSE examinations for their BTEC option subjects. This is for students taking Sport BTEC, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality and Catering, and Business BTEC. Please see overleaf the timetable for this. Students will have a drop down day before the exam to have those final moments of preparation.

GCSE 2021 DfE update

You may have seen or heard of the changes around education announced by the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson. We are still waiting for the detailed information of what exactly many of these changes will mean for our students and are not likely to receive this information until sometime in January. However, to keep you all informed, I thought it wise to give you an outline of the package that is proposed to support both students and schools through the continued disruptions caused by Covid-19.

In recognition of the challenges faced by students this year and building on the three-week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;





Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
Portland, Dorset. DT5 2NA

Tel: 01 305 820262
Email: Office@atlantic-aspirations.org

www.atlantic-aspirations.org

- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

“Exams are the best way of giving young people the opportunity to show what they can do which is why it’s so important they take place next summer. But this isn’t business as usual. I know students are facing unprecedented disruption to their learning. That’s why exams will be different next year, taking exceptional steps to ensure they are as fair as possible. The measures recognise that while teachers have gone above and beyond to support their pupils during a difficult period, some young people have had their teaching disrupted more than others and will need extra support to catch up on the curriculum and achieve their potential in exams.”

The Government has also developed a series of contingency measures with Ofqual that will mean that even if students miss one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness but have still completed a proportion of their qualification they will still receive a grade. If a student misses all their assessments in a subject, they will have the opportunity to sit a contingency paper held shortly after the main exams. In the extreme case where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.

We will contact students and families in the new year when we have more detailed information and the implications for our students.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Migliari
Vice Principal of Secondary



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
Portland, Dorset. DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262
Email: Office@atlantic-aspirations.org

www.atlantic-aspirations.org

Date	Subject	Session
Friday 8th January 2021	Travel and Tourism.	AM
Thursday 14th 2021	Hospitality and Catering	AM
Monday 1st February 2021	BTEC Enterprise	PM
Friday 5th February 2021	Health and Social Care	PM

*Sport exam date to be confirmed.

