

2 November 2021



Pilton Community College  
Chaddiford Lane  
Barnstaple EX31 1RB  
T: 01271 374381  
E: admin@pilton.college  
W: piltoncollege.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Assessment Model for 2021 - 2022**

I hope this letter finds you well and you have enjoyed the half term break.

Several years ago, we introduced the end of year exam week for all year groups. During these assessments all content taught during the year was assessed. The intention of this approach was to provide students with an exam experience in the bid to increase their resilience to exams, thereby reducing the stress students feel when sitting their Year 11 GCSE exams. These exams also provide an opportunity to recall knowledge from many topics - not just the content taught in recent weeks. The assessment data that is generated is also very useful to leaders within the school so that departmental curricula can be adapted and developed to ensure knowledge is retaught where gaps exist.

This year we have developed this model further. Every year group will experience 3 assessments weeks throughout the year. In each assessment week students will sit assessments for most subjects which will cover content that has been taught since September 2021. The outcomes of these assessments generate a current working GCSE grade which will be included in a student's report to parents.

The report you will receive will provide you with a variety of other pieces of information which includes: a progress indicator; Attitude to learning and Attitude to Home-learning. One report per year will also include a tutor comment which reflects how students have embraced our school values.

The report to parents has to be useful to both you as parents – but also to our students, whilst balancing the time required to create such reports by teachers, and the constraints of our in-house computer system. To this end I would like to openly invite parents to a working group to discuss how the report can be modified and developed to include additional information that you would find useful. Please click the link below to register your interest.

<https://forms.office.com/r/qB1L2thrgS>

Following the assessment week, students will experience a re-teach week. The re-teach week has been introduced so that any gaps in knowledge identified through the assessments can be retaught so that gaps in knowledge are closed. This is also an opportunity for teachers to stretch and challenge their students' learning. Re-teach week has been designed to develop all learners. A thorough analysis of this information will also allow timely, short-term interventions to be developed so that students do not fall behind.

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Students in all years will need to be provided with the skills to revise effectively. This term we have been researching and developing a 'Revise at Pilton' model. Subjects will be teaching an agreed approach to revision so that students are provided with the skills to succeed in exams. 'Revise at Pilton' will be focused on three main revision strategies: mind-mapping, Cornell note-taking, and creating effective flash cards.

The dates for each of the assessment weeks can be found below.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Autumn Term (Assessment week 1)</b>	<b>Spring Term (Assessment week 2)</b>	<b>Summer Term (Assessment week 3)</b>
7	W/C 15 Nov 2021	W/C 21 March 2022	W/C 6 June 2022
8	W/C 22 Nov 2021	W/C 28 March 2022	W/C 23 May 2022
9	W/C 29 Nov 2021	W/C 14 Mar 2022	W/C 13 June 2022
10	W/C 6 Dec 2021	W/C 7 Mar 2022	W/C 20 June 2022
11	Autumn term mock exams	W/C 14 Feb 2022	W/C 16 May provisional GCSE date

The content assessed in each of the exams, as outlined above, will be focused on what has been taught since sept 2021. Therefore, the summer exam will include content from the whole of the year.

Reports to parents will follow approximately two weeks after each assessment point. Through the year there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers during a virtual parent's evening. The dates for these evenings are as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Virtual Parents Evenings</b>
7	Thursday 12 May
8	Thursday 26 May
9	Thursday 20 January
10	Thursday 27 January
11	Thursday 2 December

If you have any queries or questions regarding the assessment weeks and re-teach weeks, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Heaton  
Deputy Headteacher