

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who has notified us regarding your consent for the LFD testing. If you have yet to have a chance to do this, please could you do so by Monday morning on the 1st March. The administration for organising the registration process is quite complicated so we would appreciate a swift response on this. You can fill in the consent form using the link below and hard copies of the consent form are available from the school office. Please can I remind you that a separate form must be completed for each child who attends Acle Academy.

<https://forms.gle/8KwWKyF6QmzzQyes5>

We have received a few queries regarding home testing kits. These have not been provided to the school yet and we have not received any further information. As soon as we do, we will let you know.

Testing schedule

	Monday 8th	Tuesday 9 th	Wednesday 10th	Thursday 11th	Friday 12th
Return to school	11	10	7	8	9
Test 1	11	10	7	8	9
Test 2				11	10
	Monday 15th	Tuesday 16th	Wednesday 17th	Thursday 18th	Friday 19th
Test 2	7 & 8	9			
Test 3		11	10	7 & 8	9

Ofqual announcement on GCSE Assessments

We received the Ofqual announcement from the DFE yesterday and full details of this can be viewed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught. No algorithms will be used. Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18th June. This allows as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.

Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week beginning 9 August – moved forward from the week beginning 23rd August. These earlier dates provide additional time for appeals to be completed.

Teachers will use a range of assessment methods to determine the grade a student is performing at. These assessments will likely include: internal tests and examinations, assessments and coursework and

work already completed throughout the two years. Teachers will be guided by the exam boards in applying a marking criteria. To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide assessment materials at the end of March. These will include sets of questions organised to help teachers quickly find questions in the topics they have taught. These questions will be provided with mark schemes, exemplar responses and data on past performance where available, to assist teachers in making fair and consistent judgements of the standard of a student's performance.

Exam boards will then publish a range of quality assurance procedures that the school will adhere to ensure consistency of the application of the mark scheme. Exam boards will review all schools' and colleges' quality assurance processes before they submit grades.

Schools can decide the exact timing for when they undertake internal quality assurance, provided they complete the necessary checks before the deadline to submit grades to the exam boards on 18 June.

Given the above information, we are surmising that we will have some flexibility in deciding the form of assessments that we use. Our working assumption is that we will divide the overall assessments in each course between a coursework element, an internal examined element and an element which recognises the assessments and work that has already been completed. We feel this is the fairest way to assess the skills, knowledge and aptitude of individuals in each subject. This may be subject to change depending on the information we receive from the exam boards in March. Once we know the finer details from the exam boards, we will devise an assessment outline for each course and ensure students know which method of assessment is being used to assess each element of the curriculum they have studied in each course.

As a practitioner, I am pleased with the Ofqual announcement as it allows us to devise a programme of assessment that will be fair and equitable to all learners. Many teachers have expressed concerns over the years that 100% terminal examinations can disadvantage some learners so the ability to include coursework assessments is a welcome addition.

I hope this news relieves some anxieties for our Year 11 learners. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do let me know.

Remote Provision Survey

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took part in our remote provision survey. We have seen a very positive response in terms of views on live lessons and live registration.

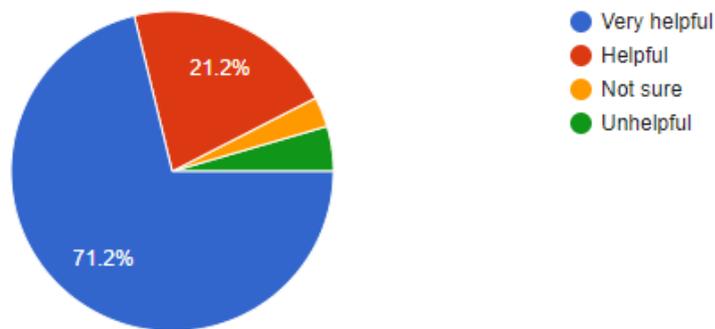
How helpful have live lessons and registration been?

We are part of...

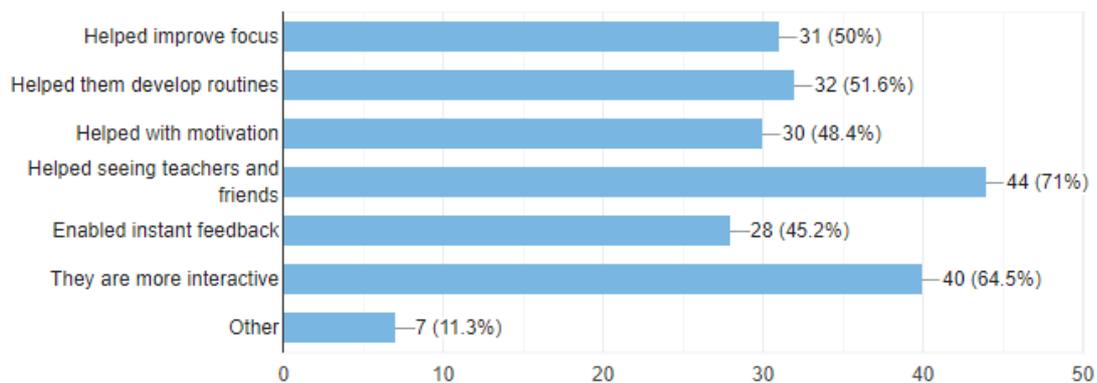
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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES



If your child has found live lessons helpful, what have been the main reasons?



The survey has told us that the most significant issues affecting children during this second lockdown has been the ability to concentrate or self-motivate, a feeling of loneliness and missing friends and the classroom environment and loss of learning. However, parents have also noticed an improved sense of independence, improved organisational skills, improved determination, and improved family relationships.

We all know that the best place for children to learn is in the classroom with their friends and teachers and we are very much looking forward to welcoming back some normality from the 8th March. Using the information from the survey, we will ensure that we spend time building relationships and ensure we focus on children’s mental well-being when they return to us.

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We fully appreciate that this second lockdown from school has been significantly difficult, especially during the winter months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience, support and understanding.

Best wishes



Helen Watts
Principal

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