

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope this letter finds you well during this trying time.

I am writing to you today to explain in a little more detail the current circumstances for practical subjects' coursework; particularly for Art and Textiles.

As I am sure you will be aware, students studying these subjects build a portfolio of work over a two-year period. The course is normally comprised of two separate components. However, due to learning lost through lockdowns, the examining board (AQA) reduced these components to just the one for our current Year 11 students. Your child is currently working on this component.

Furthermore, as a result of the extended National lockdown we are currently experiencing, the government launched a consultation into how students should be awarded their GCSE grades this year and, as part of this consultation period, the Department for Education and the examining boards are currently discussing how they will move forward with assessing coursework components for practical subjects too. Information from this consultation period is imminent and we are hoping to have clear guidance from the DfE shortly. We will communicate all information to our families as soon as we know.

In the meantime, Year 11 students studying Textiles and Art courses are still having work set by their subject teacher, which continues to build their portfolio. Being mindful of the stress during the current circumstances, the subject teachers for these subjects are working to set work that will continue to improve the students' portfolios, whilst attempting to have the least impact on the need for resources students don't already have to hand at home. Therefore, we are not asking students to purchase any new resources to complete work; we have made sure the work being set is achievable with materials students already have at home. Our Year 11 students are not required to continue with coursework production that requires any resources they do not already have.

When we know the outcome from the DfE's consultation period, there may be a need to resume with practical work essential to the GCSEs. At this point, there may then be a need for students to receive essential resources from school. Should this be the case, a plan to enable this will be drawn up and communicated home.

In the meantime, can we please just take this opportunity to praise all our students who are working hard with their studies at home and showing true resilience in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Miss Moreno  
Curriculum Standards Team Leader for the Creative Arts



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