



Tuesday, 23rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11,

You are all aware that exams are being replaced by teacher-assessed grades this summer. Although more information is set to be released by each exam board regarding the quality assurance process, I wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update with regards to how we will ascribe the grades.

Our priority lies with maximising the time we have remaining for teaching, revision and assessments. This means that normal lessons will continue right up until the two weeks following the summer half term. Grades must be submitted to exam boards on the 18th June 2021. There will be some assessments this term, for which students will get the maximum warning, and we will also run assessments after Easter. There will be no formal assessments sat in the exam hall, but rather a series of tests during lesson time, for which students will have been fully prepared.

BTEC qualifications are also continuing to collect evidence that will be verified by an external moderator.

Evidence

All evidence is acceptable from throughout the course, however:

1. More recent evidence is stronger than older
2. Controlled conditions are preferred to work completed in uncontrolled conditions (such as remote learning)
3. Work that has been marked and moderated (checked by another teacher) will form stronger evidence
4. Teachers must be confident that evidence submitted is the students own work

Calculating final grades

Most of the evidence that will be submitted to justify the grades ascribed will have been completed in controlled conditions, marked and have been moderated by at least one other teacher. The evidence will then be signed off by the headteacher. Professional dialogue and judgement will be used to determine the relative weight



of each piece of evidence, rather than trying to ascribe a mathematical formula or applying an average.

For example:

A department may have collected 7 pieces of evidence that would be appropriate to use to calculate a grade:

- 1 piece at grade 6
- 3 pieces at grade 5
- 2 pieces at grade 4
- 1 piece at grade 3

Although the highest grade achieved is a grade 6, it may be that the pieces of work that were judged to be grades 4 & 5 were actually done more recently and were done in controlled conditions. It is important to note that the final grade awarded is unlikely to be the highest grade ever achieved, and one piece of work or assessment judged to have been a high grade, will not, on its own lead to that outcome, rather sustained quality over a number of pieces of work.

Access arrangement and SEND

Students will get the normal exam access arrangements they are entitled to. Most commonly this will be extra time. However, if students need other arrangements such as scribes or laptops, we will ensure students will have access to this. If there have been any assessments where students have not had their normal arrangements, a reasonable adjustment will be made to the grade.

Appeals

Although we will not tell students what grades we are ascribing, they will be able to see what evidence is being used and how they have done on the assessments.

If a student wishes to appeal their grade they can do so by submitting an appeal to their school who will submit this to the exam board on their behalf. Further information about the appeals process is to be released.

Students will be able to re-sit an exam in the Autumn.

Everything is very much still to play for, for all our Year 11 students. I have been immensely proud of the attitude, commitment and mature approach students have taken since coming back to school from the lockdown – in what must be recognised as very difficult circumstances. The weeks ahead for our Year 11 pupils will continue to have an impact on the outcomes that they achieve, and I would like to assure parents and carers that we will work tirelessly and do



everything in our power to support our pupils to achieve grades that reflect their ability and hard work.

Below is a link to an infographic provided by the government regarding how grades will be awarded this year:

[How GCSEs AS and A Levels will be awarded in Summer 2021](#)

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Fugill
Vice Principal