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Head of School: Mr C Leng
Deputy Headteachers: Mrs C Grandidge and Mr J Shaw

7th July 2021

Dear Parent and Carers of Year 9 and 10 students,

Regarding GCSE Studies 2021-2023

We have recently completed all our 'Teacher Assessed Grades' for Year 11 students and shared these with the exam boards on the 18th June 2021. These grades are currently being externally moderated by the exam boards and the final grades will be awarded to Year 11 students on their GCSE results day on the 12 August 2021.

We are unsure and, as yet, have received no further details on what the Year 11 awarding of GCSE grades will look like in the summer of 2022 and 2023 for the present year 9 and 10 students.

The interim chief regulator of Ofqual (the exam board regulators) has recently said it was "not yet decided" whether "full exams" would be sat in 2022. At the very least, changes are likely to be needed "to take account of learning loss and disruption". Therefore, the use of teacher assessed grades is still one of the possible future options for current Year 9 and 10 students. We already know that some vocational qualifications will be asking us for a teacher assessed grade for one or more of the students' coursework units in Autumn 2021.

This year we have used a variety of evidence in the awarding GCSE and vocational grades to students this year including:

- Previous in-class assessments.
- Completed or incomplete Non-Examined Assessment (often referred to as coursework).
- Mock Exams / End of Year exams.
- Substantial class or homework- including those that took place during remote learning.
- Records of student's progress and performance over the course of study in performance based subjects such as PE, Drama, Dance, Music etc.
- Records of each student's progress and performance over the course of their GCSE studies.

It is incredibly important that students continue to attend school and engage in their learning in order to give them the best opportunity to succeed in their future studies and for students to have the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills over the course of their GCSE studies to their teachers. The best thing students can do now is to attend school, attend lessons, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, and be fully prepared for their lessons in the last few weeks of the summer term in preparation for September 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cavanagh
Executive Headteacher
Secondary YHCLT

