



Growing
Talent,
Promoting
Community

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19th March 2021

Dear Parent and Carers of Year 10 students,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that students are settling back into their daily school routine and face-to-face learning. I am writing to you to provide more information about the teacher-assessed grades for students completing GCSE qualifications this year. As part of the Kelvin Hall School curriculum, students normally complete their English Language GCSE at the end of Year 10. This early entry curriculum plan has been in place at Kelvin Hall School since 2018. After reviewing the arrangements shared by Ofqual and the DfE, we believe students will still be able to do this successfully and we intend for Year 10 students to complete this GCSE this year.

Early entry of the English Language GCSE benefits students by reducing the number of exams they need to complete in Year 11 and allowing them to focus on a smaller number of qualifications in that crucial year. Research shows that a student's average progress is improved by completing one GCSE in Year 10. Students will continue to study English Literature in Year 11, and Students will also be given the opportunity to resit the English Language GCSE in Year 11 if they choose to do so. Both the English Language and Literature qualifications are accepted by colleges and other providers as a 'good pass' in English.

This year Ofqual and the DfE have provided us with clear guidelines and arrangements to follow from Easter onwards, this information is detailed below and in the attached infographics.

- There will be no end of year formal exams for any qualifications set by exam boards.
- **Teachers will determine grades by looking at a range of evidence including work students have already completed and work they will complete during the rest of the year.**
- Students must continue to attend school, learn, and complete assessments from their teachers.
- Students must continue to complete their coursework and non-examined assessments (NEA).
- The grade produced will look the same as any grade awarded in any other previous year.
- The grade will be accepted in the same way as a normal exam grade by colleges, apprenticeships, and employers.
- Schools will talk to students about the evidence they have used to determine their grades.
- Schools will share these grades with the awarding bodies by the 18th of June after whole school moderation of the grades.
- Students will receive their grades on the 12th August.
- If a student feels their grade is unfair, they have a right to appeal their grade.

Teachers will determine students' grades later in the year, and to do this they require evidence showing their previous and current attainment. It is therefore 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 studies. **To provide students with the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills students will complete a series of short exam-style assessments in the weeks commencing 26th April and 3rd May 2021.**

An assembly will be delivered to students about these assessments next week and they will also receive information from their teachers in lessons. Students will be prepared for these assessments in their normal lesson time and they will have some additional online and face-to-face revision sessions offered. These assessments will all take place in their classrooms with their own teachers, and these teachers will also mark their work. The best thing students can do is to attend school, attend lessons, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, and prepare for their assessments.

We know that students will demonstrate our school values of hard work, respect, and independence over this period and that we can rely on them to do us proud in their assessments. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mr Christopher Leng
Deputy Headteacher

