



Growing
Talent,
Promoting
Community

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7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 students,

I hope, as we are all coming to terms with the reality of a new lockdown, that this letter finds you well. I wish to take the opportunity to update you, as best as I can, about the current situation with regards to the summer exams. I would appreciate it if, after reading this letter, you would share the information with your child in Year 11.

There was an announcement on the 6th January 2021 from the Education Secretary with regards to the Summer 2021 GCSE exams and grades for all Year 11 students. The information we have at the present time is that the exam boards and regulators are developing a process that replaces this series of summer exams. This will lead to the production of a 'teacher-assessed' grade for each student in every GCSE subject that they study. Although we have not yet had the guidance and information on this process, the following is expected:

- The grade will be determined using teacher input, taking into account a range of evidence including previous assessments and tests, mocks, and teacher evidence over the GCSE years. This will reflect performance as fairly as possible. Clear guidance on how this is to be done will be with schools and colleges soon.
- This process will be completed before the end of the summer term.
- This grade will also take into account any work and assessments completed whilst the students are participating in remote or onsite learning in the spring and summer term.
- These grades and the production of certificates will look no different from any previous years.
- The distribution of grades will follow a similar pattern as in previous years.

Vocational subjects (BTECs, CNATs, etc.) will be assessed differently to GCSEs. Students will receive assessed scores/grades for some incomplete units, but these will be determined on assessments that have already taken place and have been shared with exam boards. As far as we are aware, vocational exams and some coursework units will still go ahead and may need to be completed.

I understand that this will raise a lot of questions. Once the final details of the process are known we will be engaging with it in order to ensure the outcomes are right for the students at our school. Please remember that teachers have known most of our students for five years and have a wealth of evidence of their capabilities and efforts within each subject area.

With all this in mind, I would encourage all students to engage fully in their home learning in order to demonstrate their commitment, knowledge, and skills, and to ensure that they are fully prepared for post-16 education or employment. It is in students' best interests to ensure that they are able to demonstrate their readiness for their future colleges or work-based employers next year.

Thank you for your continued support. I will write to you again once we have any further news.

Take the very best of care,

Mr Christopher Leng
Deputy Headteacher

