

*Our reference: AHH /SB**

26th February 2021

Dear Year 11, Year 13 and Families,

I know that many of you are anxious about this summer's exam grading but I hope that this letter provides you with clarity and reassurances as to what is going to happen over the coming weeks and that your final grades will be awarded in a fair process.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State we can now confirmed the following:

- There are no externally set GCSE or A Level exams this summer (this was announced previously)
- The grades you receive (Centre Assessed Grades) will be based on the standards that you are working at
- We will use a wide range of evidence to inform our assessments to ensure that your grades are not based on a single result in mock examination or in class assessment
- You are expected to continue to complete any non-examinable elements of your courses e.g. coursework, portfolios or practical elements. These will be marked by your teachers and will be used to inform your final grades
- School will run an internal moderation / standardisation process to ensure that the grades submitted to the exam boards are fair
- Schools are required to submit grades to the exam boards by 18th June at the latest. Exam boards will then sample the evidence and procedures used by schools to ensure that your grades have been awarded fairly
- Results will be published on Tuesday 10th August (A Level) and Thursday 12th (GCSE) – details of the plan for results days to follow
- There will be an appeal process in place for any students who believe that their grade was not fairly awarded. The earlier exam results dates provide Year 13 students with more time to submit appeals before university places are finalised

To access the announcements and documentation in full please use these links below:

- Gavin Williamson's Letter to Ofqual:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964583/Letter_from_Gavin_Williamson_to_Ofqual.pdf
- GCSE / AS and A Levels:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf
- Vocational and Technical Qualifications:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964973/6748-1_-_Decisions_-_VTQ_Consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf

We are anticipating more details to emerge in the coming days, the majority of which will relate the procedures and processes that we as a school are required to undertake in order to administer the

system outlined by the government. If there is any further information that is relevant to you and families, we will let you know as quickly as we can.

Post Easter Mock Exams

You will be aware that our plans for Year 11 and Year 13 students this year included a series of mock exams in January which had to be postponed following the announcement of a national lockdown. To ensure that you have every opportunity to demonstrate the progress that you have made and to provide your teachers with recent evidence to support your grades we are going to run our mock exam series shortly after the Easter break. The timetable and details of this will follow in the coming weeks. I therefore encourage you to use your time wisely to prepare for these exams. Please be reassured that these exams will only assess the work / content that you have covered so far and will only form part of the evidence base that determines your final grade. Your final grade will not be based on the outcome of one single exam result or your performance on one day, but will take into account your work from across each course.

We are aware that exam years are always very stressful and this year has been even more difficult than most as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. We will therefore do all that we can to support you in the coming weeks ahead to allow you to show us how much progress you have made and the standard at which you are working. It is therefore important that you focus on what you can control. Please ensure that you attend all of your lessons, work hard, prepare for internal assessments and complete all work (classwork / homework and coursework) to the best of your ability.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours faithfully,

A. Hogarth

Mr A Hogarth
Deputy Headteacher