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Dear Parents and carers

### **Decisions on how qualification grades will be determined in summer 2021**

As we are sure you are aware, Ofqual have now published their decisions following the consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined this year. They have also published a separate response regarding vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs).

Here is a brief summary of what will happen:

1. Students who were due to take examinations this year will receive grades awarded and determined by their teachers, and will be assessed only on content they have been taught. This also applies to students studying vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs).
2. Your child's teachers will draw on a broad range of evidence when determining these grades, including the use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of their courses, such as essays or in-class tests.
3. As a school, we will conduct multiple checks – such as checking the consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes have been followed - to ensure our judgements are fair, consistent, evidence-based, and minimise the risk of bias and discrimination.
4. We will submit final grades to exam boards by 18 June.
5. **Post 16** students will receive their results on 10 August.
6. GCSE students will receive their results two days later on 12 August.

So that we can ensure our judgements are as accurate as possible, we have made the following decisions:

- The scheduled Year 11 and 13 mock exams have been cancelled and replaced with a final assessment period for each year group, to take place between Easter and May half-term.
- Subject areas will decide on the most appropriate assessments that will take place in this period.
- Teachers will refer to these and a broad range of other evidence available from across the course in order to generate a holistic final grade.

- There will then be a final quality assurance process before grades are submitted before 18 June.

We have agreed on this approach in order to provide students with an assessment experience which is as close as possible to what they have been preparing for throughout their studies. We will set this out clearly, via an assessment timetable, so that students and parents know and understand what they will be assessed on and when this will happen. Lessons between now and then will focus on preparing students for how they can achieve their very best.

We have decided that where appropriate, these final assessments will take place in exam venues with external invigilators, as the rules and regulations protect from interference, disruption and malpractice. We think that it will also be useful practice for students who may be required to sit exams again in their future.

However, we are mindful of the pressure students are under and want to emphasise to them that these assessments will not carry the same high stakes as terminal exams would have done. They will form part of a broader set of evidence about students' understanding and performance gathered throughout their courses, and will not hold students back if other evidence is available.

We will provide further details of our intended plans as soon as possible, including a detailed schedule for the assessment period. You may also be interested to read the full guidance, which is available [here for GCSE, AS and A level grades](#), and [here for VTQs](#).

Please note that information is coming to us in fits and starts and exam boards are yet to publish their details of how this guidance will apply to specific courses – we hope to have this information before Easter. Because of this, we cannot yet say when teaching will end for Years 11 and 13 or what will happen to those year groups after we have submitted the final grades. We apologise if any of this is confusing.

Yours sincerely



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