

26th February 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well.

You will, no doubt, have heard that Ofqual has now published how they expect examination grades to be awarded this Summer.

I am writing to you to outline the key points of Ofqual's guidance and how we will be supporting students and staff to ensure that grades are as fair and accurate as possible.

The key points from the guidance are as follows:

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught.
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class assessments.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, Exam Boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the Spring term.
- Exam Boards will publish optional assessment materials by Easter, some of which will be based on past papers and others that will be previously unseen.
- Exam Boards will publish requirements for centres' quality assurance including checking consistency of judgements across teachers.
- Centres will submit grades to exam boards by 18th June.
- Exam Boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.
- A-level and other KS5 results will be published on 10th August.
- GCSEs and other KS4 results will be published on 12th August.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.
- For those students who want a further chance to improve on their teacher assessment grades, the government is expected to announce that a full Autumn exam series will be held for the second year in a row.

The full Ofqual response to the consultation can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964597/6747-1_decisions - GQ consultation on awarding grades in 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964597/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)

We are committed to ensuring that grades awarded to students are as fair and accurate as possible. Therefore, we have already / are putting in place the following framework to support students and teachers:

- Subject Curriculum Leaders are tracking work being set by teachers to ensure that there is a fair and comparable evidence base for deciding grades for students in each subject.
- We have drafted an evidence robustness framework so that teachers are able to consider how much weight to place on different pieces of work they are using to decide student grades. To support students we will publish this framework and teachers will identify where work being set fits into this framework.
- Students were advised from the start of January that work they completed could be used to inform grades.
- As soon as Exam Boards publish their guidance, we will finalise our arrangements for how teachers will assess students and share these arrangements with you.
- Once the Exam Boards publish their optional assessment materials we will inform students how we intend to use these to support teachers in making judgements about grades to be awarded.

If you have any questions regarding how we are working to ensure students receive fair and accurate grades this Summer please contact the school.

Please continue to stay safe and I look forward to welcoming the students back to school from 8th March.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Smith
Principal