

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Yr 11 parent/carer,

We are all very much looking forward to seeing the students back in school next week. Thank you for encouraging your children to attend their testing appointments this week, it has been so helpful and has meant that we have been able to arrange for Yr 11 to return as early as possible, to get back in the classroom and continue with the face to face learning that we have all been missing.

Interviews for Yr 11 who have applied to join our Sixth Form in September are underway. They are being conducted via the Parent Cloud and students and parents have been emailed their appointment times. We would be grateful if you would encourage the students to attend their scheduled appointment punctually, we may well not have the time to be able to offer another opportunity for a one to one meeting if they do not attend this one. After their interview, they will receive a conditional offer.

We hope that you have found the weekly communications to Year 11 families, reassuring and helpful. We thought that it might be useful at this stage to share with you some of the details with regards to your son/daughter's assessments for this year.

You may have heard that the body responsible for qualifications in England (Ofqual) have now released information on how GCSE, A level, BTEC and RSL grades will be awarded this Summer. Please find the key points summarised below:

- There will be no use of any algorithm this year, but rather the judgement of teachers who know their students best and have considerable experience in assessing and grading their students. However, the decision will not be made by one teacher alone, but rather the team of teachers in a subject to ensure that all grades are fair to all students.
- Students' grades will be determined by teacher assessments using evidence from assessments and exams that students have done as well as exams and assessments that students will complete over the next few months. We will be sharing with students the final decisions on the range of evidence we will use to determine the final grade.
- Please note that the government has decided that assessments towards students' grades can continue to take place throughout the Summer term until grades need to be submitted. Exam boards will be supplying schools with extra question banks that teachers can choose questions from to help in their assessments. So, it is vital that students recognise that they will need to keep working hard until all assessments are completed.
- Students will only be assessed on subject content that their teachers have taught them. This is very important, as it allows a fair assessment for

students in schools that may have had to close for longer periods than others.

- For students studying subjects that are based on coursework and portfolios, for example Visual Arts or Performing Arts, they will need to continue working hard in these subjects. The final judgements for their grades will be made using the evidence from coursework and portfolios.
- It is very important for parents/carers and students to realise that there will be no “predicted grades” but rather all grades will be based on the actual performance of students in all the assessments considered. The evidence of these assessments will need to be available for the exam boards who will check on school systems and structures to ensure that the grades are reliable and accurate.
- Students can appeal their grades that are awarded if they are not happy. However, please note the following points with regards to appeals. Stage 1 of the appeal will be for schools to check and make sure that that has not been any clerical or administrative error. If there is an error, this will be communicated to the exam board and they will make the necessary change to the grades. If there is no clerical error, and the student still believes their grades are incorrect, then the appeal has to be submitted to the exam board who will request all the evidence that teachers have used to determine the grade. The exam board will determine if there is a very clear unreasonable academic judgement and could then change the grades. However, it is important for parents/carers and students to note that at this stage, grades can go up or down.

Please note that **results days for this year will be 10th August for Year 13 students and 12th August for Year 11 students.** This is earlier than usual to allow students time to appeal should they wish to do so.

We will be briefing students on all of the above when they return back to school next week. However, it will be great if you could discuss these details with them and share the attached infographic to reassure them at this challenging time. We will keep you updated with any further information as and when the government makes further announcements with regards to examinations.

Please check your emails for a separate communication sent today about the planned return to school, next Tuesday 9th March 2021.

Wishing you and your families and pleasant weekend,

Stay safe,
Kindest regards

Ms Nicholas
Senior Deputy Head teacher

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	<p> Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August</p> <p> If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</p> <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p>