

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 11 GCSE Update**

We understand that it has been an unsettled and anxious time for our Year 11 students who have been waiting to hear news as to how they will be awarded their GCSE and vocational grades as their exams have been cancelled. Last week, OFQUAL released further information, summarised below.

Teachers have been asked to submit to exam boards a current grade for the subjects that your child has been studying. These grades will be based on how students are currently performing. This is unlike last year as they are not predicted grades as to what we think students would have achieved should they have sat the exams. Neither will an algorithm be used by exam boards to check or alter grades.

The guidance we have received is that teachers and SENCOs must assess their students' current performance only on the teaching and learning that has been delivered to them over the past three years.

This means that if students have been unable to complete work and assessments due to COVID reasons such as self-isolation, lockdown and year group bubble closure, they will not be penalised.

As part of the guidance, each subject within a school must have a robust, fair and consistent method in evidencing the grades they submit for their students. Exam boards will require this information as part of an external checking process and will ask for evidence of students' work and teachers' marking to justify the overall grade.

Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA) and coursework components as directed by their teachers. These will contribute to the grade that is submitted but may not be the only evidence that is used by teachers to reach their final grade.

We understand how important these grades are to our students. As a school, we want to give every student the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in every subject so that we can submit the most accurate grade for them to demonstrate their current performance.

Over the next weeks, we will be determining what evidence should contribute to assessing students' grades, using guidance from exam boards. It is likely that on Year 11's return to school, students will be asked to complete tasks and assessments in most lessons that will help form a judgement on their grade. Exam boards are providing a package of support materials which includes robust assessments based on past exam papers and a proportion of previously unreleased questions for each subject. It is highly likely that students will be expected to sit these in exam like conditions to support the school in providing a range of evidence to support the submission of current grades, given that we have not been able to hold the March mock examination series. Therefore, school attendance is of paramount importance for your child

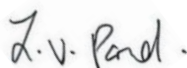
and excellent attendance will mean your child has more opportunities to demonstrate their capabilities and provide evidence to determine the grade submitted.

We hope to provide students, parents and carers, more information about this process as soon as it is possible to do so.

We strongly urge students to keep working hard in lessons, be it in school or remotely, as the work that is being set and completed is likely to help towards preparing students for any future assessments or may form part of the evidence that teachers use. It will also prepare students for their post 16 pathways. We have set up a Teams Meeting to provide further clarification on Friday 5 March at 4.00 p.m. Invites will be sent via your child's Teams (Year 11). Parents/ Carers and Students are welcome to attend.

Take care.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond  
Headteacher



Miss H Tredgett  
Assistant Headteacher



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