



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



27 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

With the current loss of face-to-face teaching and uncertainty about when face-to-face teaching might resume, the Government has decided that exams cannot be held in a way which is, and which is perceived to be fair, in Summer 2021.

Although schools have taken significant steps to improve the remote learning offer and many schools are providing high-quality learning, it is nevertheless likely that schools' and colleges' ability to teach the entire curriculum and provide the usual exam preparation support will be impacted. The Government recognises that the impact of the pandemic varies between regions, between schools and colleges within a region, and from student to student according to their personal circumstances.

As a result of this decision, there is a consultation currently taking place, a joint consultation with Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) wanting to hear the views of students who were due to take their exams, their parents and carers, their teachers, school and college leaders and others who have an interest. Grades awarded in Summer 2021 must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do, and these grades must be widely understood and respected. In place of exams in Summer 2021 the Government proposes that a student's grade in a subject will be based on their teacher's assessment of the standard at which they **are** performing, as opposed to just how they have performed in mock examinations for example or one-off assessments. A range of factors will come into play.

Work is being undertaken with the exam boards to provide training and guidance for teachers to support their assessments and the assurance process schools and colleges will use. This is to ensure that the final approach balances the desire for flexibility with the need to make sure grades are valid and consistent. At present, we await detailed information as to how Teacher Assessment Grades for each student in each subject area will be arrived at, but once we have that we will follow the guidance rigorously, particularly in terms of what constitutes our evidence base and quality assurance procedures.

It would be unfair at this point to speculate as to what we will base the final decisions for Teacher Assessment Grades upon conclusively, we can only do that once we have definitive guidance. With regard to the tracking report that you are now in receipt of, parents and students need to be aware that the predicted grade is a current best indicator of the level the student can expect to be working at in the summer. However, it is at best an indication, and students can and do finish with

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final grades on, above or below this prediction. The predicted grade, this year more than ever, must be treated with a great deal of care. The current plan for providing students with Teacher Assessment Grades (TAGs) is, as mentioned previously, out for consultation. There is currently a lack of clarity about what the final GCSE grade means, and how exactly centres are to arrive at it. Therefore, the Mock and Predicted Grades provided in this tracking are in no way a commitment to the final Teacher Assessment Grade that the students will be given.

What is absolutely essential at this point, despite the uncertainty, is that your child continues to work to the very best of their ability, whether it be remote learning or in-school learning, completing any assessments and other tasks fully. Staff will, as always, be fully supportive of our Year 11s and continue to prepare them for the successful completion of the curriculum and we will respond to the guidelines as soon as we are able to do so. As always we applaud the efforts of our Year 11 students who remain driven, focussed and conscientious and thank you as parents for your support in all that we are trying to do at present.

Yours sincerely



Mr P. Rawlinson
Deputy Headteacher