



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



22 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to provide you with information regarding the use of assessments and the evidence they provide to support the awarding of Teacher Assessment Grades in determining final GCSE grades for Summer 2021. This is to keep you fully informed as to what is being used to help us to provide an outcome across all subject areas that is fair and not lenient or harsh, whilst also allowing us to take into account circumstances where students may be considered to have been unduly and adversely affected over and above the disruption caused by the Covid-19 restrictions of the past 14 months. Attached to this letter is a list of the assessment methods used by the school for this year's GCSE cohort.

We now need your support in informing us if you believe there have been mitigating circumstances, for underperformance or non-attendance in any of the individual subject assessments identified that we may need to take into account when coming to a judgement on students' Teacher Assessment Grades. Mitigating circumstances may include prolonged absences from school, illness or bereavement. We already have a record of self-isolation days for our students during Year 11 and where significant will apply variations through considerations for Covid-related disruption in accordance with JCQ's guidelines. If you feel that specific consideration needs to be made in relation to your son/daughter, then this needs to be addressed in writing to the Examination Officer at school by Monday 10 May 2021, and must identify the assessments which you feel may have been affected. This is in compliance with the process used by the examination boards each year of applying special consideration where appropriate, including for those students with special educational needs.

As outlined to you before the Easter break, all students are able through the TEAMS platform to access a plan for each subject area that provides an overview of topics that are being covered on a weekly basis, areas for revision linked to the topics being covered in class, in-class assessments with dates where possible and where appropriate, full-cohort subject assessments in May 2021. This has been available since Monday 22 March across all subject areas.

Following guidance set out by the Department for Education, our Year 11 students will have their final day in school for face-to-face learning on Friday 28 May 2021, although the official leaving date is Wednesday 30 June 2021 at which point their compulsory secondary education is complete. During June students will be offered a programme of academic and pastoral remote learning to support them in their next phase of their educational or career journey and this will be offered with support of our sixth-form partners and careers' providers. This will allow them to access a menu to facilitate a successful transition into this new phase on an individual needs basis.

The Year 11 cohort continues to work very well and has shown considerable maturity and focus throughout a period of educational disruption and the ensuing concerns this raises. This is to their absolute credit and accordingly it is our responsibility to ensure that the final process rewards them appropriately for what they have achieved over the course of their GCSE studies.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Rawlinson
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