



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3103 LMA

2nd March 2021

Dear Parent,

Year 11 GCSE Examination Update

I understand that some of you will feel some nerves about this summer's exam grading system but I hope this letter provides you with a bit more certainty and some reassurance. Late last week the Government announced the plans for the award of GCSE grades. Whilst we cannot provide you with all of the detail because further guidance still to come, from a student's perspective there is more clarity. We know:

1. There will be no externally set GCSE or 'A' Level examinations this year
2. The grades will be based on teacher(s) assessment of the standard that students are working at

You can be assured, that we will be using a range of evidence to inform our assessments. Grades will never be based on a single result of an examination or class assessment.

By Easter, the exam boards will provide schools with additional exam questions that we can use if we wish to, not necessarily under exam conditions. We may decide to use these if we require further evidence - our aim is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. We are also clear that students will only be assessed on content that they have studied by the end of the course.

The school and along with the other schools in Endeavour Learning Trust and colleagues across both West Lancashire and South Ribble schools, will run a comprehensive moderation and standardisation process to ensure that the submitted grades are fair and representative of what each individual student can do at the end of the course.

Grades will be submitted to the exam boards by 18th June and students and parents cannot be told their grade at any point during this process. The exam boards will then choose a sample of schools and look at the evidence they have used and procedures followed to ensure the grades have been awarded fairly.

Grades for GCSE candidates will be published and available from school on Thursday 12th August which is slightly earlier than usual.

There will be an appeals system any student who believes their grade is not fairly awarded. The earlier exam results date is planned to provide time for Year 13 students to have any appeals dealt with before university places are finalised.

Ofqual and the examination boards will provide more detail in the coming days but most of this will relate to internal school procedures and how the system will be administered. If there is more information for students and parents please be assured that we will keep you fully informed.

As yet, we do not know the leaving date for students in the summer term and this will be communicated in due course. As part of our careers and pastoral package, we will ensure that each of our students will have





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access to the support and advice needed to ensure they have the appropriate pathway for post 16 education.

Exam years are always stressful and this year more difficult than most. It is important now more than ever, to focus on the 'big picture' and students should be encouraged to keep working hard. They must continue to develop their knowledge and study skills and do their best to prepare for any internal assessments. All whilst being reassured that the GCSE results will be a fair reflection of their performance across the year and not based on one single exam or one single day.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Head of School



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