



9 March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students in Years 11 and 13,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that it provides you with some reassurance about how the grades for Year 11 and 13 will be awarded this summer. On Thursday 25th February, the government announced plans for the awarding of grades in 2021 and exam boards have now begun to provide specific guidance to support this. At this stage, I cannot provide you with all of the detail in terms of how we are to administer the grading and the actual evidence that schools are expected to provide to exam boards; this is expected over the coming weeks and we will share any important detail at the earliest possible opportunity.

We are currently working on the system that we will use to award grades As soon as we have all of the necessary guidance in place, we will share our planning with students in school, via the website and in writing to all parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students. In simple terms, our planning is based upon the following timeframe:

Planning for Year 11 and 13 Students – Key Dates	
10th to 26th March 2021	Year 11 and Year 13 return to face-to-face lessons. Lessons are based upon consolidation and completing work that has been started. No new topics will be started.
29th March to 11th April 2021	Year 11 and Year 13 students to revise, organise notes and prepare for assessments on the work that they have been taught. This will be different for each student. No student will be disadvantaged by being assessed on work that has not been taught.
12th April to 21st May 2021	Year 11 and Year 13 students will review taught material with their teachers in class. They will focus on exam technique and will complete classroom assessments. This may be based upon assessment materials that will be provided by exam boards and will represent one part of the evidence for each individual student.
24th May to 11th June 2021	Year 11 and Year 13 assessments will be marked, standardised and checked as part of internal quality assurance. The school will work collaboratively with others including partner schools, professional associations and exam boards to ensure consistency.
12th June to 18th June 2021	All school assessed grades to be uploaded for use and national quality assurance.
10th August 2021	Year 13 A Level Results Day.
12th August 2021	Year 11 GCSE Results Day and 6 th Form Registration.



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At the moment, we know the following:

- Year 12 students will only be entered and awarded grades in the subject that they are not continuing into Year 13. Similar to Years 11 and 13, students will review taught material with their teachers in class, focus on exam technique and will complete classroom assessments during the period from 12th April to 21st May 2021. These assessments will represent one part of the evidence for each individual student and will be reviewed in combination with other evidence, including the upcoming mock exams, in line with the guidance provided by the exam boards regarding 'weighting' of different pieces of evidence.
- There will be no external GCSE, AS, A Level or Vocational exams set this summer. All grades will be assessed internally by the school.
- Grades will be based upon exam board assessments and our professional judgement of the standard that students are working at. Students will be assessed on the parts of each course that they have been taught.
- Schools are to use a range of evidence. Exam boards will offer guidance upon how much 'weight' or importance should be given to different forms of evidence. For example, course work, mock examinations and formal classroom assessments. They will also offer guidance on other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- **It is important to be reassured that grades will not be based on a single result in a mock examination or class assessment.**
- Schools are to run an internal moderation/standardisation process to ensure that the grades which are submitted are fair; grades are to be submitted to exam boards by 18th June 2021. That internal moderation/standardisation process may be reviewed by one of the exam boards to ensure consistency and fairness between schools.
- Ofqual have confirmed that students and their families cannot be told the submitted grades until the relevant results day. They note that in their guidance that:
An awarding organisation must take reasonable steps to ensure that, prior to its issue of results, the proposed result provided to it by Centres under the requirements set is kept confidential (including by Teachers and Centres).
An awarding organisation must treat any breach of confidentiality as malpractice and/or maladministration.
- *An awarding organisation must treat any breach of confidentiality as malpractice* The submitted grades will be subject to an external quality assurance process in which exam and/or maladministration.
- boards will look at the evidence and procedures that schools have used to generate grades to ensure that they have been awarded fairly. They will do this with a percentage of schools nationally.
- Results for Year 13 and Year 12 will be released on 10th August. Results for Year 11 will be released on 12th August. Year 11 students will then have the opportunity to sign up for Post-16 courses.
- There will be an appeals system in place for students who believe that their grades have not been awarded fairly.

At this stage we do not know the leaving date for students in the summer term and are waiting for national guidance on the next steps for exam year groups.

There will be more information and detail released by the government and exam boards in the coming days and weeks. Please be reassured that we will keep up to date with all the information that is provided and that we will be closely following all requirements and guidelines to ensure that our students receive grades that are a fair reflection of their performance across their courses and not from one assessment outcome sat on one particular day.

Please find below the link to the parent guide which was produced by the DfE on 25th February

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021/>

We will keep you informed of any further information or guidance as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any further queries, please contact Mrs McFadden (Deputy Head Teacher) or Mrs Lennon (Head of 6th Form).

Yours sincerely,

A J. O'Sullivan

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Headteacher