



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
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21st January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You will, I hope, have received a link this week to a survey we have put together asking various questions about Remote Learning – please do complete this, if you have the time, by Monday when we will process the responses. If you missed it, this is the link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6LJZJmxYAEm3TB7Z9nv4_DpKaUjBwTZLo5l1x3CwHSRUQTRNTIZCSIBJSFhVQjZCMVROUVZLV1BLQS4u

This week, I sent a loomed video home -

https://www.loom.com/share/d2e7e21f45e54f668ef680a88e70b073?sharedAppSource=personal_library

Together with this document –

https://garstangacademy-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/person/aashcroft_garstangcommunityacademy_com/EXFitWqyfYxBv9k9MJ2RGW4B_eWD64-26HGuyrLpqUVFaA?e=IU1VdE

both of which contain information intended to support your children with their Remote Learning, and what to do if they are struggling. It would be really useful if you could watch and/or read these, so you know what they have been advised.

The rest of today's letter is relating to Year 11 and summer grading, but I felt that it was useful for all parents to receive the same information, rather than writing separately to the Year 11 parents:

Following last week's communication from Mr Williamson to Ofqual, Ofqual have now launched their consultation on how grades should be awarded this summer. They have asked parents and students to read it and to complete the on-line consultation itself, even though I believe it has been made deliberately unfriendly in an attempt to dissuade as many people from doing so as possible.

The consultation information is here –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/95300/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf

The on-line consultation itself is here – <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

I would encourage you to engage with both documents if you can spare the time.



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In summary, as far as arriving at the grades themselves is concerned, they are saying the following:

- Summer grades will be decided by teachers, although on what basis and how this is moderated is still to be decided.
- Grades should, apparently, be “based on teachers’ assessments of the evidence of the standard at which their students are performing; it should indicate their demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills,” not “the grade a student might have achieved had the pandemic not occurred” or “what grade a student might have received if they had been able to take their exams.”
- As a result of this, there needs to be a decision made as to what “evidence of the standard” could or should be taken into account, and over what time period.
- Externally set, but probably not marked, tests/exams/assessments, taken during the summer term, are likely to form a substantial part of this evidence.
- The process is likely to go well into the summer term, with a possibility of grades being awarded before the summer holiday.
- There is a strong indication that teachers will be told to “not tell students the grade they have submitted to the exam boards on their behalf.”

Accordingly, we will send a report home tomorrow with students’ estimated mock grades, which includes a letter from Mrs Rawcliffe which I encourage you to read in order to understand more fully the part the mock grades would always play in our assessment of a student’s progress, and that this year is no different.

We are aiming to run a Progress Evening before half term, in some form or another, where you will be able to discuss how well your child is working and the progress they appear to be making. I hope that we may know more about the grading expectations by then.

Please encourage your child to keep engaging and working hard – it is going to be really important that they do so. This week’s year 11 engagement has been really high – well done!!

As ever, please keep in contact with us and encourage your children to keep engaging, keep submitting, and keep communicating.

We will, as always, get through this together.

Very best wishes, and stay safe

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher