

15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the latest central guidance from the exam boards we are finalising our policies for the centre assessed grades process for Year 11's GCSEs this summer. We realise there have been many letters over the last 13 months, but this one is important so please take time to read, complete the form if necessary and ask any questions if you have them.

As the grades awarded need to be evidenced, we are currently collating as much information as we can to award the most fair and accurate grades possible. As we mentioned in our last letter, we will be using the assessments completed in school since the start of the GCSE. Parents have been provided with a tracking grade on reports at each of the assessment points. In most cases the more recent evidence will hold the most weight, but all information at this stage is important.

Before we explain the information we need, it is vital for families to remember the following:

1. In the eyes of the exam boards, students around the country have all been impacted equally by the pandemic in terms of the extended periods of online learning.
2. Once grades are completed by the school, there will be a chance for an appeal, but this will be based on the same evidence we use to award a grade and we have been asked to reiterate that grades can 'go down' or 'go up' following an appeal.
3. Grades this year must be awarded on evidence and NOT on the potential of students.

Therefore, we would like any families in Year 11 who believe their child has had particular issues or barriers, beyond those of the remaining LSA Year 11 cohort, to complete the following questionnaire to declare any reasons why they feel their child has been impacted by Covid19 or other factors which have specifically disadvantaged them.

If it is clear that there is a significant disadvantage for an individual student compared to rest of the cohort for a period of time then the teacher will need to re-evaluate the weighting of pieces of assessment evidence from the affected time period. In effect, this may mean that a particular assessment is NOT considered due to a particular illness or issue at that time.

It's important we know these circumstances and the dates, before teachers start to make the judgements for the final grade during May and June.

Please note that the national guidance makes it clear that the presence of genuinely disadvantaged circumstances will not necessarily boost a grade. The guidance states 'Centres should be able to select work completed by a student where they were unaffected by adverse circumstances'.

Please also note we will not be able to share further information with parents/carers once the questions have been answered, but please be assured that we will collate this information centrally and will treat it with sensitivity and understanding. It will not be shared with students.

You will shortly receive a report which will indicate if the current performance is 'working above'/'working on'/'working towards' the expected grades. It will not show a current working grade as this will depend on the assessment being taken in this final half term. Clearly, this continues to make the forthcoming assessments a brilliant opportunity to improve final outcomes. The tracking grades shown on previous reports since GCSE's started in Year 9 will also be shown again for your convenience.

The form can be found here: <http://bit.ly/Year11CentreAssessedGrades>

**The deadline for completing the information is Wednesday 21st April at 9am.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to complete the form. We are working hard to make sure that the students are making the most of these remaining weeks at school and their attitude is an absolute credit to you and themselves.

Your sincerely,



Mr. T. Cubbon,

Deputy Headteacher