



22 March 2021

Dear parents, carers and guardians

Year 11 & 13 – GCE / GCSE / VTQ Final Assessment

On the 25 February 2021 the Department for Education and Ofqual published their conclusion to the consultation process on how GCSE, AS and A-Level grades will be determined in 2021. The publication provided some specifics in terms of dates alongside a range of general guidance and underlying principles for schools to interpret and apply.

The Poole High School approach to assessment and grading will reflect that of other local schools and be a process of fairness and integrity. We understand the need for students to feel that their grades reflect their ability and have been fairly earned. Over the next half term, we are committed to providing all our students the best opportunity to demonstrate their potential.

The guidance provided to us states that assessment should focus on work that has been taught, yet still represent as much of the course as possible, ideally with a range of tasks and evidence used. We have determined that in order to facilitate this, each subject area will assemble a portfolio of evidence consisting of mini question papers we are calling *PHS Finals* alongside NEA/Coursework. We are also looking to include supplementary evidence in certain subject areas such as mock examinations and previously completed substantial assessed classwork. Portfolios of evidence will be consistent for all students in a subject area, and the evidence will be used holistically in conjunction with awarding body guidance in order to come to a grade.

Teachers will structure learning, revision, and assessment over the upcoming period in order to ensure all students have the opportunity to fairly demonstrate ability and skills. The nature of this may vary slightly between different subjects, dependent upon their unique requirements. Assessments will be moderated and quality assured internally and externally. Practical subjects such as Art & Design will be assessed purely upon the portfolio of work and students will continue to develop their existing portfolio of work toward this goal.

We will be arranging our mini *PHS Finals* assessments to take place throughout the next half term on a staggered schedule. These will take place in classrooms instead of the examination hall. Dates of the assessment windows will be shared with students and we will look to ensure access arrangements are applied for all students where possible. In those rare cases where access arrangements cannot be accommodated satisfactorily, we will note this on the assessment and an adjustment may be made.

We look forward to supporting all our students during this period and know they will effectively continue to deploy their skills with retrospective revision leading in to their assessment period. Final grades will be confirmed to students on the result days of 10 August (A-Level) and 12 August (GCSE).

Yours sincerely

Mr K Lean

Assistant Headteacher