



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You will no doubt be aware of the government's announcement this morning regarding how GCSE, A Level, AS Level and Vocational examination results will be awarded this year. We were already aware that teacher judgments would be used to award grades this year. However, what was unclear was whether the government would be prescriptive in how these grades should be arrived at. For example, there were discussions around whether students would be expected to sit formal examinations, provided by examination boards, in schools.

The government's announcements today have largely answered many of these questions.

I wanted to write to you to summarise the most pertinent information, so that you will understand how it will affect your child. Full details of the government announcement can be found in the following press release from Ofqual:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students>

The key points from today's announcements are:

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught.
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- No algorithm will be used.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18 June, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.
- Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week of 9 August – moved forward from the week of the 23 August. These earlier dates provide additional time for appeals to be completed, so students reliant on those outcomes to achieve their university offer have the best chance of accessing a place.
- Students studying vocational qualifications (Btec and CamTech) will also receive grades assessed by teachers rather than sitting exams.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.

Please be rest assured that as we digest the government announcement we will begin to put plans in place to ensure that every child has the opportunity to demonstrate their potential in the coming months, and that like last year, no students studying GCSE, A Level or Vocational qualifications will be disadvantaged by this pandemic.

We believe that the system outlined above is the fairest way to ensure that students receive the grades that they deserve, and will reflect the hard work they have put into their studies over the past two years.

We will continue to keep you fully informed as to how we intend to implement Ofqual's announcement. If you have any questions or queries relating to today's announcement, please do not hesitate to contact our reception team, and they will be happy to pass your details to the appropriate member of staff so that they can respond accordingly.

Thank you as always for your support. We look forward to welcoming all students back into school to continue their studies on the 8th of March.

Yours sincerely



Mr Adam Ironside
Assistant Head Teacher