

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that you were listening as intently as I was yesterday when the Secretary of State for Education made his announcement about how GCSE grades were going to be determined this summer.

I thought it would be useful to provide you with an update of the key pieces of information.

- Teachers are being asked to draw upon a range of evidence when determining grades for their pupils, which include mock examinations, coursework and other related exam-work such as in-class assessments or essays.
- We already have the mock examination data and we will now work with each Head of Department to decide upon which other pieces of evidence will be used to determine the final grades.
- Examination boards will provide all schools with assessment materials by Easter, where teachers will be able to choose from a range of subject-specific questions that they can assess in class, rather than in timed examination conditions. Until we have actually seen these assessment materials we cannot tell you whether they will be used as part of our overall gathering of evidence.
- We must submit our grades to the examination boards by **18 June 2021**. No algorithm will be used to change teacher grades. We will need some time before this to prepare all the data, but I will need to provide further information about the data collection process closer to the time.
- Results day for GCSE has been moved forward to **12 August 2021**.
- There will be an appeals process for pupils if they consider an error has been in their grade and there will be a full Autumn examination series held for pupils who want to improve their grades.

I hope that you found this summary of yesterday's announcement useful. The message that we are sending to all Year 11 pupils is that they need to continue to work as diligently as they have been doing during this latest lockdown, the vast majority have been fantastic. The next 12 weeks gives them the opportunity to show their teachers what they are capable of and to strive for the best possible grade in all their subjects. I will write to you again as soon as I have any further information.

The whole staff are really looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 pupils back to school on Monday 8 March 2021. We completely understand just how much this year group have been disrupted for the past year and I can assure you we will all do our best to maximise the time we have left with them.

Thank you for all your help and support, which is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher