



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Students and Parents,

GCSE Grading Summer 2021 Update

I understand that many of you will feel anxious about this summer's exam grading, but I hope this letter provides you with a bit more certainty and some reassurance. The Government has recently announced plans for the awarding of grades. I can't provide you with all of the detail as most of the guidance still to come relates to schools and how we administer the system. However, from a student's point of view there is now a bit more clarity as we now know the following:

- There will no externally set GCSE or A Level exams this year (we had been informed of this previously)
- The grades will be based on teachers' assessment of the standard that students are working at

You can be assured, as we have previously said that we will be using a range of evidence to inform our assessments, so grades will never be based on a single result in an examination or class assessment.

By Easter, the exam boards will be providing schools with additional exam questions they can use if they wish (not necessarily under exam conditions). We may decide to use these IF we require further evidence, as our aim is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. We are also clear that students will only be assessed on content that they have studied by the end of the course.

We do not yet know the leaving date for students in the summer term and this will be communicated in due course. As part of our careers and pastoral package we will ensure that each of our students will have the support and advice needed to ensure they have selected an appropriate pathway for post 16 education.

The school, along with the other schools in Endeavour Learning Trust and colleagues across both South Ribble and West Lancashire will run a comprehensive moderation and standardisation process to ensure that the submitted grades are fair and representative of what each individual student can do at the end of the course.

The school will submit the grades to the exam boards by 18th June. Students and parents cannot be told their grade at any point in this process. The exam boards will then choose a sample of schools and look at the evidence and procedures that they have used to ensure the grades have been awarded fairly.

Grades will be published and available from school on the following dates:

- Tuesday 10th August – A Levels
- Thursday 12th August – GCSEs

There will be an appeals system for any student who believes their grade is not fairly awarded. The earlier exam results dates provide time for Year 13 students to have any appeals dealt with before university places are finalised.

Ofqual and the examination boards will provide more detail in the coming days but most of this will relate to internal school procedures and how the system will be administered but if there is more information for students and parents, please be reassured that we will keep you informed.

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

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Exam years are always stressful, and this year more difficult than most. It is important now more than ever to focus on the big picture. Students should be encouraged to keep working hard, ensure that they continue to develop their knowledge and study skills and do their best to prepare for any internal assessments. Students can be reassured that the GCSE results they gain will be a fair reflection of their performance across the year and not in one single exam or on one single day.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School