

14 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Year 11 student

As you will be aware Gavin Williamson announced on 6 January that the government intends to cancel all GCSE assessments this summer. As promised in Mrs Johnson's letter dated 7 January, we are writing to you with a further update. The government has recently written to Ofqual regarding the 2021 summer assessments, and how they expect these to be conducted this year. The letter states that a consultation will start later this week and run for two weeks, however, they have set out some clear expectations of what should be included in the Teacher Assessed Grades guidance. For your information I have summarised the key messages below:

- Year 11 students will be taught for as long as possible to enable them to maximise teaching time, catch up and to allow teachers to award a final grade. They will not be released early as in normal Year 11 examination years.
- Students should be assessed based on what they have learnt rather than the full course content.
- Schools should continue to conduct internal assessments to support the teacher's final judgement, these will be externally moderated for fairness and consistency between different schools, and to reassure the exam boards.
- Several sources of evidence should inform teachers' judgements, training and guidance will be provided to support teachers to make their final grade.
- Students may be asked to sit an externally set task and assessments, these will contribute to a final teacher assessed grade.
- Teaching, learning and assessment for all qualifications should continue until the end of Year 11
- BTEC and vocational exams will not take place in the summer, internal assessments should continue to take place.

Although the formal examinations have been cancelled, it is clear that teaching, learning and assessment must continue remotely and when possible face to face, all Year 11 students should continue to attend their lessons.

Should have any questions or need to contact school, please telephone 0151 652 1574 during core school hours. You can also contact Mrs Galer on [aga@birkenheadparkschool.com](mailto:aga@birkenheadparkschool.com)

We will contact you again as we receive further updates. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



**Peter Mee**  
Deputy Headteacher