



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents,

Parental Update Letter

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 announced plans last week for the awarding of grades. I cannot provide you with all of the details as yet but most of the guidance still to come relates to schools and how we administer the system. From a student point of view there is now a bit more clarity. We know the following:

- There will be no externally set GCSE exams this year (we have been informed of this previously)
- The grades will be based on teachers' assessments of the standards 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 we 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 the appropriate pathway for post 16 education.

As a school we, along with the other schools in Endeavour Learning Trust and colleagues across both South Ribble and West Lancashire schools, 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.

GCSE grades will be published and available from school on the following date:

- Thursday 12th August

There will be an appeals system for any student who believes their grade is not fairly awarded.

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 ensured that we will keep you informed.

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 and 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 should 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 one single day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School