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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

20 January 2021

Dear Year 11 Student and Parent/Carer

Since writing to you at the start of the month there has been increased speculation about how Year 11 will be assessed and awarded their grades this year.

I do understand that this is causing anxieties and frustration. I wanted to share with you the latest information to bring some clarity to the situation and outline our response.

Ofqual, the exam regulator has put out for consultation a number of options. It is important to emphasise that none of these proposals are confirmed and we do not expect a decision until next month about how schools will be instructed to proceed. The plans currently out for consultation are:

- Grades will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing
- Final assessments will be made "towards the end of the academic year, at about the time students would have taken their exams"
- Exam boards issue exam papers for teachers to use with students "as part of their assessment"
- Teachers' draw on a "range of broader evidence of a student's work in making their final assessment"
- Teachers' grades would be subject to external quality assurance by the exam boards

What are the implications of this?

- Students need to continue with their education during this academic year
- Students continue to be assessed by their teachers into the summer term
- Teachers would submit grades to the exam boards
- Teachers' grades would be checked by the exam boards

With reference to my previous email much of our current advice to students stands.

We don't know how GCSEs will be assessed yet - but there will be ongoing assessments. There may still be some exams. Try not to stress about not knowing. As soon as we have confirmation of arrangements we will let you know.

Let us work out how to best support you when we have clarity. Be assured that all of your hard work up to this point and moving forward will contribute to a final grade.

There will be further assessment opportunities in some form and GCSE grades will reflect all your hard work using a range of assessments over time.

Keep learning, log on to your email to access all your lessons and take part as best you can. This will help your mental health because you will stay in a routine. You will keep in the habit of learning and this will help you this year to achieve your best and whatever course or apprenticeship you go on to.



There is plenty of time to keep improving in order to get your best possible grade.

As a result of the details of the consultation being published at the end of last week it is no longer accurate to refer to future assessment arrangements as mock exams. None of the Ofqual proposals refer to externally assessed examinations. However, there will be ongoing assessment opportunities for you to show how far you have come and to contribute to your final GCSE grade.

Therefore, we do advise that students' revisit learning to secure their understanding using the revision guidance provided in assemblies that have been emailed. We will continue to provide support for revision moving forward.

Ofqual is inviting comments from parents/carers and students for its consultation. It closes on Friday 29 January, further details can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/953000/6743-1\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_and\\_A\\_level\\_grades\\_should\\_be\\_awarded\\_in\\_summer\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Ashdown'.

Mr M Ashdown  
Deputy Headteacher