

5th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to keep you updated with our plans for students in year 11.

As you will be aware, we have just over three more weeks with our year 11 students to gather the final pieces of evidence that will be used to determine their GCSE grades. It is vital that students attend school every day and spend time at home preparing for their assessments.

In order to give students some additional home study time, each Monday afternoon, from Monday 10th May, students in year 11 will leave school at 3:00pm, following a shortened Personal Development lesson. Students will continue to attend school until 3:45pm on all other days of the week.

Year 11 students' final day in school will be on Friday 28th May. Students will stay on roll beyond this point, but will not be expected to attend school. Your child's new college or sixth form should be in touch with work that students can be doing in preparation for their new courses in September and information about the induction process.

GCSE Results Day is on Thursday 12th August. I will write to you again with details of our plans for this day later on in the term.

How will grades be awarded this summer?

Please follow this [link](#) for information from the Joint Council for Qualifications.

Grades for GCSEs and most other qualifications will be based on a process involving teacher assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual is as follows:

1. Teachers will **assess students against a national standard**, which has been defined by the exam boards.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be **quality assured by the school**. This internal quality assurance process has been signed off by the exam boards to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. Our school results will be **quality assured externally** by the exam boards, which will include random sampling of our school's evidence.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, **then the exam boards will award students their final grades**.
5. If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to **appeal**.

Teachers are using a range of evidence to determine grades, which will then be reviewed by the school. Students will be told which evidence has been used to determine their grade. The professional judgement

of teachers will only be based on what students have been taught. The same range of evidence is being used for all students in a subject cohort to ensure that grading decisions are consistent.

Teachers can assess students based on work that has already been completed, including:

- Records of performance on the content students have been taught over the entire course of your studies.
- Non-exam assessment, often referred to as coursework or internal assessments, even if it has not been fully completed.
- Work produced in tasks set by teachers that reflects the specification, format and marking of exam boards. This could include substantial classwork, homework, internal tests or mock exams.

Teachers are also gathering further evidence to assess students:

- In most subjects, teachers are carrying out a number of 'evidence tests', in order to gather further evidence.
- Importantly, these tests are not formal exams, nor are they designed to play the role of exams. We do not need to assess every aspect of each subject. We need a range of evidence that shows students' performance on the aspects they have been taught.
- The majority of tests are taking place within normal lesson time and students are given advance notice of when these tests will occur.
- It is important that students endeavour to attend school every day, to maximise their chances of achieving their best possible results.

Students will be told which evidence has been used to determine their grade. They will also sign declarations in each subject area confirming that this work is their own.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Vickie Beeby
Deputy Headteacher