

7th January 2021

Year 11 GCSE Grading

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you following the announcement yesterday regarding the grading of GCSEs.

Below is part of the statement released by Ofqual (the full statement can be read [here](#)):

“We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, or face-to-face for those students still going in to their school, college or training provider. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It’s important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.

The way ahead is not straightforward: exams and standardised assessments are the fairest way of determining what a student knows and can do. We need to consider a wide range of qualifications – from A levels and GCSEs to many different vocational and technical qualifications – and the solution won’t be the same for all. Following the government’s announcement on Monday evening, we also need to consider how alternative arrangements will work for different students, including those who are independent learners. We are discussing alternative arrangements with the Department for Education. We know that many are seeking clarity as soon as possible. We will provide further updates as soon as we can.”

Therefore, please encourage your child to continue to engage with the work being set and to complete it to the best of their ability.

I will write to you again as soon as further details about GCSE grading have been released by Ofqual.

Yours sincerely,

Vickie Beeby
Deputy Headteacher