



WITH THE POWER TO ACT

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NDM/PG

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Dear Parents/Carers

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

As you are probably aware, the Department for Education has confirmed that this year's external examinations will be replaced by teacher assessments. We are delighted to hear that no algorithms will be used and the results will be based on a range of evidence from pupils' assessments and other pieces of work throughout their courses.

We are awaiting detailed guidance from the exam boards as to what can be used as evidence. Please note that the grades awarded will not be solely based on just one piece of evidence such as the PPEs. It is imperative that learners continue to work at their highest standard and complete all assessments to the best of their ability. Vocational coursework still needs to be submitted and this will form the basis of the vocational grades. It is essential that pupils complete all coursework to the very best of their ability.

Teachers will be submitting grades on 18 June and results will be given on 10 August (A Level and other Level 3 qualifications) and 12 August (GCSE and other Level 2 qualifications). Before results are uploaded to the examination boards there will be thorough checking by Heads of Department, Directors and the Senior Leadership Team.

It is essential that pupils do not 'take their foot off the pedal' once we return to school on 8 March. Classes will continue as usual and further assessments will take place. These assessments will allow pupils who did not get the desired grades on their last report to show that they are making progress and allow them to reach a higher final grade. It is also important that those pupils who **did** achieve their desired grades on the back of their PPEs continue to work to this standard as this PPE will only be a part of the evidence base that we will collate. We will keep parents and pupils informed with advanced notice of any major assessment still yet to come.

We anticipated that this may well be the outcome for the Year 11 and 13 assessment process. Consequently, Heads of Department have already been making appropriate preparations. Internal moderation will continue to take place so that pupils can be assured that teachers are marking to the same standard within each subject.

There will undoubtedly be many questions from both pupils and parents. We will keep you informed and, in the meantime, it is essential that pupils use the remaining time to stay focused and work hard so that they achieve the grades they need to take them to the next step in their education. We will be arranging another

/Parents' Meeting ...

Parents' Meeting for Year 11 (virtually) which will be an excellent opportunity to discuss pupil progress with their subject teachers. This date will be confirmed soon and we will inform you. As we have recently met with Year 13 parents we will not be running another Year 13 Parents' Meeting. However, Heads of Department are available to discuss any concerns Sixth Form students or their parents may have.

Below are links to key documents that give more information.

Links

Announcement by Education Secretary:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students?utm_source=25%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Letter to OFQUAL from Education Secretary:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964583/Letter_from_Gavin_Williamson_to_Ofqual.pdf

Guidance for Awarding qualifications in summer 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

ofqual

Ofqual/21/6751/2

| Working out your grade | Evidence | Results and appeals |
|--|---|--|
|  Graded by teacher judgement |  Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence |  Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August |
|  Not graded by an algorithm |  Non-exam assessment should continue |  If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. |
|  School and college assessments can continue |  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete | <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  www.gov.uk/ofqual |
|  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught |  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio | |
|  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you |  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to | |
|  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded |  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best | |

Yours faithfully

N D McCourt

N McCourt
Assistant Headteacher