

26th February 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

We are now in receipt of the method of assessment for GCSE this summer. It has been confirmed that students will receive grades determined by schools.

They will only be assessed on what they've been taught, and no algorithm will be used. As a result, no additional new work will be taught when they all return on 8th March 2021. As Head of Centre I have to confirm that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education in the subjects to be studied. Without this declaration it won't be possible to award a grade. By starting the GCSE course in Year 9 I can clearly do this.

Schools are required use a broad range of evidence for each student, for each subject studied, to determine their individual grades. The advice given is that Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as possible. As a result of this, assessment will be based on the following:

1. The mock examinations carried out in March. These are carried out under examination conditions.
2. GCSE questions carried out in the classroom. These questions will be provided by the examination boards. They will be topic based. A mark scheme will be provided, along with data about how students typically performed in individual questions. These will be based on past examination questions.
3. A further test carried out as late as possible in May based on unpublished examination questions. These will be carried out under examination conditions.

I also need to declare that the requirements for internal quality assurance have been met. This can clearly be achieved when components of the assessment have been carried out under examination conditions and the material used for assessment has been provided by the examination board.

The Government has decided that results day for GCSE will be 12 August 2021. Students will be able to appeal their grade by the following process:

- A student who is unhappy with their grade should first ask their school or college to check whether there's been an administrative or procedural error.
- If the school does find an error in the grade submitted, a revised grade can be awarded with the rationale for the examination board to consider. If they are satisfied with the rationale, a revised grade will be issued.
- If the school doesn't believe an error had been made, a student can then ask the school to submit an appeal to us on their behalf. This will include the

evidence on which the judgement had been made. The examination board will then consider whether, in their view, the grade reflected a reasonable and appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If they feel it didn't, they will determine the grade that the evidence would support.

Hopefully this information will help alleviate some of the stress that this situation brings.

Yours sincerely

K Sartain

Principal