



20th January 2021

Dear student,

I hope you are all keeping well and managing at home during the current lockdown. Well done to everyone who is regularly attending all of their live learning lessons. This is a very difficult time, so please remember that we are all here for you. If you are worried or struggling in any way, either with accessing your learning, or managing your feelings, make sure you contact your teachers, tutor or Head of Year for help.

As you are probably aware, the government has decided to cancel public examinations for Summer 2021.

I am writing to you today to update you on our understanding of the government's plans for how grades should be allocated without the normal public examinations process.

Ofqual, the government agency that oversees public examinations, published a consultation on Friday outlining proposals for how grades could be assessed this year and I have outlined the key proposals further down this letter. However, I want to start with a clear message about what this means for you.

What you must do now:

Continue to engage with your learning, continue to attend your online lessons and complete all assignments to the best of your ability.

All work completed in the next 6 months could be used as evidence of your ability when your teacher makes their final assessment of the standard at which you are performing.

This is a great opportunity for all students to have their grades allocated based on a range of evidence rather than an all or nothing final exam, however, it does mean you can't rely on last minute revision.

The key proposals for allocating grades this year are:

- Grades should be allocated at the level students are at – NOT the level students could have been at without the disruption caused by Covid.
- Grades should be allocated by teacher assessment.
- Grades should be allocated by teachers based on a range of evidence of student's work including: formal tests, mock examination results and substantial pieces of candidate work.
- Exam Boards should provide exam papers that will be part of the evidence teacher's use to determine a student's grade.



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- For subjects with non-examination components (coursework), the quality of this coursework should be considered as part of the evidence base used to determine a student's final grade by their teacher.

The full details of the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

The consultation will be completed by the end of January. As soon, as we have confirmation of exactly how your grades will be decided this summer we will contact you with these details.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage
Principal



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