



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Examination Grades 2021

The Education Secretary announced yesterday, Thursday, 25 February, that examination candidates will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, and that students will only be assessed on what they have been taught. Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of the Government's plans to ensure that young people get to their next stage of education or training.

We are reassured that this will be the best way for grades to be awarded this year given the significant disruption to learning. Students' teachers and their departments will be able to draw on a range of evidence from the beginning of their course when determining grades. This may include:

- the use of questions provided by exam boards on topics they have covered
- mock exams
- coursework
- other work completed as part of a student's course
- essays
- in-class tests
- substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
- records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study.

We are delighted that this means that students still have the time and the opportunity to show continued progress and their full potential before their teachers submit their grades at the beginning of June.

Schools will conduct multiple robust checks, checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed, to ensure that the grades awarded are fair. Exam boards will also conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify any cause for concern. Teachers will submit grades to exam boards in June, and the results days for A level and GCSE will now be on 10 and 12 August 2021. Every student will have the right to appeal their grade or sit an examination in the Autumn term to improve it.

Planning is still in the early stages but please rest assured that we will be in contact again when further information is released by the examination boards at the end of March. We are confident that this process will support students to progress to the next stage of their education or career.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us,

Yours faithfully

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