



1st March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that everyone is able to find some time away from technology and enjoy the sunshine now that it is here.

You will, no doubt, have heard that Ofqual has now published how they expect examination grades to be awarded this Summer.

I am writing to you to outline the key points of Ofqual's guidance and how we will be supporting students and staff to ensure that grades are as fair and accurate as possible.

The key points from the guidance are as follows:

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught.
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, Exam Boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.
- Exam Boards will also publish optional assessment materials by Easter, some of which will be based on past papers and others that will be previously unseen.
- Exam Boards will publish requirements for centres' quality assurance including checking consistency of judgements across teachers.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18th June.
- Exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.
- A-level results will be published on August 10th.
- GCSEs results will be published on August 12th.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.
- For those students who want a further chance to improve on their teacher assessment grades, the government is expected to announce that a full autumn exam series will be held for the second year in a row.

The full Ofqual response to the consultation can be found in the document attachment. The table below also summarises the information from the full document from Ofqual.

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

Working out your grade

- Graded by teacher judgement
- Not graded by an algorithm
- School and college assessments can continue
- You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught
- Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you
- Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded

Evidence

- Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence
- Non-exam assessment should continue
- Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete
- Art & design grade based only on your portfolio
- Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to
- Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best

Results and appeals

Results days
AS and A level 10 August
GCSE 12 August

If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.

You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website

www.gov.uk/ofqual

We are committed to ensuring that grades awarded to students are as fair and accurate as possible. Therefore, we have already put in place a robust framework to support students and teachers:

- Heads of Department have been tracking work being set by teachers online during the lockdown, to ensure that there is a fair and comparable evidence base for helping to inform the decision-making process for deciding grades for students in each subject.
- We have drafted and shared the evidence robustness framework with teachers, students and parents. This is now in place across the school so that teachers are able to consider how much weight to place on different pieces of assessed work.

RAG	Meaning of RAG	Examples
R	Work completed at home under no time pressures. Work being completed is based on specification content but might not be based on exam style material.	Worksheet Google quiz or form Homework task Online platform
A	Work completed at home under no time pressure, BUT based on exam style material	Exam questions Whole past papers
A+	Work completed at home, under a strict time, where all questions are of exam style material	Exam questions Past papers End of Year 10 or 12 assessments that were completed last summer NEA work completed at home.
G	Exams or exam style questions completed under exam conditions in school	Mocks in year 11, work completed in school after lockdown under test conditions. NEA work completed in lessons. Exam board prepared material.

- Students were advised from the start of January that work they completed could be used to inform grades.
- Once the Exam Boards publish their optional assessment materials it is our intention as a school to use them as further evidence under the Green section above. We intend to use these materials to ensure that the evidence that we use to help inform our grade judgments, is based on established examination board quality questions. The examination boards ensure that their mark schemes have clear criteria, with grade boundaries set and based on national cohort data. This is the fairest way to ensure that the judgements made by teachers about the grades to be awarded are clear for all.

To ensure that the students are not inundated with assessments on their return to school, we have devised the following three-week rota. Students will sit 'Green' assessment papers for their subjects in line with the plan set out below.

(Students in art will continue to work on their coursework pieces and portfolios in all lessons.)

Year 11 starting on the 15th March

Week 1 = Science, History, Technology, Computing

Week 2 = English, RE, French, German, Drama
Week 3 = Maths, Geography, Music, PE
Week 4 = Science, History, Art, Technology, Computing
etc

Year 13 starting after Easter, post mocks

Week 1 = Psychology, Chemistry, RE, French, German, PE, Geography
Week 2 = Biology, Maths, Art, Law, History
Week 3 = Physics, English, Business, Product Design
Week 4 = Psych, Chemistry, RE, French, German, PE, Geography
etc

Not all lessons will be assessments, but if a subject wishes to set an assessment it will fall in the week stated above for their given subject. Teachers will provide a revision list and materials in the two weeks leading up to each assessment so that the students can both prepare in lessons with the teacher, as well as completing independent work at home in preparation for these assessments.

The plan above has been put together to try and spread out the assessments based on the option choices of students in GCSE and A' Level. Every effort has been made to ensure that this spread is equitable for all, but there might a few students where one week is slightly "heavier" with assessments than another.

We will continue to do all we can to support our students through this difficult time. I thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Donna Roughton
Assistant Headteacher

