



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing to update you on arrangements for awarding grades to sixth form students this summer.

As you will be aware, exam boards are asking schools to generate, for each subject, teacher assessed grades (TAG) for students. These grades will be based on a range of evidence completed as part of the course, including some work which has already been completed, and some which will be produced in the coming months. This will demonstrate the student's performance on subject content they have been taught.

In many subjects, students will sit assessments over the course of the next half term. Whilst these assessments are important, it is worth remembering that they are not designed to replicate exams. Grades do not rely solely on any individual assessment. Students should continue to work hard in class and at home and take these assessments as an opportunity to show what they know, without getting worried or stressed.

Year 12 students, are not, on the whole, going to be entered for AS exams. A small number of students have been entered and these individuals will be aware who they are; these are mainly students studying towards 4 A levels currently.

Additionally, students studying towards the double or triple qualification in Children's Play, Learning and Development, will continue to sit an externally set exam because this unit is a requirement for the licence to practice that forms part of this course.

For students who are completing BTEC or Cambridge Technical qualifications, students may still need to submit their coursework units to enable them to complete their course and be awarded a grade. They will also be assessed in school for their externally examined components where relevant.

As a school, we are taking the following steps to try and ensure that students are prepared for any assessments, so that they have the best opportunity to show what they can do:

- A timetable of the main assessments for the next half term is attached to this letter. This will enable students to prepare a revision schedule for the Easter holidays and next half term.
- For each assessment, details of which content is being assessed will be provided to students.
- Students will be advised on the best way to revise and prepare for each assessment.
- This information will also be available to parents through FireFly.
- Students will not be assessed on content which they have not been taught.
- Assessments will take place in lessons, and will usually be around 60 minutes in length.
- Where students are entitled to access arrangements, such as a scribe or extra time, this will be available for all of their assessments.



I would also like to reassure you that there is a robust Quality Assurance process to ensure that grades are awarded consistently and fairly across all subjects. Subjects have already submitted their plans on which evidence they will use and these have been approved by the senior team. Extensive internal moderation will begin at a departmental level to ensure that grades are awarded consistently between different classes in the same subject. Curriculum Leaders will then meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for ensuring that the grades being submitted are backed up by appropriate and robust evidence to ensure that they are consistent across all subjects. The final layer of Quality Assurance will come from myself when I review the grades and evidence for each subject before signing it off.

Recent national guidance has advised that parents should not contact subject teachers, so as not to unduly influence the process, even if this was not their intention. Such contact, even if made with good intentions, could constitute exam malpractice which would require an investigation from the exam board. I would therefore request that any queries regarding this process should be made by contacting the year group team, rather than subject staff.

Students will not receive their grades until the national results day on Tuesday 10 August. Students will have the right to appeal their grades if they so wish. However, appeals are not likely to lead to adjustments in grades where the original grade is a reasonable exercise of academic judgement supported by the evidence. Grades can go up or down as the result of an appeal.

This has been a very difficult time for our students but I am proud of the way they have applied themselves, both during school closures and since we have returned. I appreciate your continued support during this important time to ensure that students work hard as we continue to build an evidence base to award them the grades which they deserve, and will have earned in the summer.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Bird
Headteacher