



21 January 2021

Dear Parent

Achievement Briefing for Exam Groups

On Friday I led a live briefing for all students in years 10, 11 and 13 and their parents, to share what we know about how qualifications will be awarded this year following the news that the 2021 summer exam series has been cancelled. This letter summarises the information that was shared in that briefing which was recorded and is available to view following this link [here](#).

This year started like no other year before it with many unknown challenges lying ahead. Miss Armitage and I spoke to students at the beginning of the year about the opportunity to achieve some great outcomes, but that this opportunity may look different to previous exam groups. We ended our very first day of term with the news that schools would be shut to most students and that the summer exam series was cancelled.

Consultation

We still do not have the detail of what will be put in place instead of exams but there is a national consultation happening now about how grades will be awarded. Below is a summary of some of the key principles underlining that process:

- Teaching time should be maximised and students must remain engaged in education.
- There should be extensive evidence in order to award grades.
- Teachers will get access to training to help us with this process.
- There is a discussion happening about what the evidence will be and it might include externally set tasks or papers.
- The process for gathering evidence needs to be FAIR and students in exam groups this year should get the same chance to succeed as previous year groups.
- Schools will work very closely with the Department for Education and Ofqual (the exams regulator) so that we can be sure the grades awarded in different schools are equitable.

Carlton Academy Students

We are committed to ensuring that our students achieve the grades that they deserve this summer. Years 11 and 13 will be awarded the GCSEs and A Levels they are studying towards and Year 10 students will be awarded their RE GCSE and their other qualification that completes this year as well.

We are continually reviewing our remote learning programme to ensure that students can access their full curriculum and we need students to engage with this every single day. We ask parents to support students to persevere and work hard under these different and challenging circumstances. It is important to remember that we do not yet know the details of how students will be assessed, but we know that all work completed builds a bank of evidence to support the process for awarding grades whatever that might look like.

It is sometimes hard for young people to keep up with independent learning when not in the classroom, but it is helpful to keep destinations in mind in order to keep a sharp focus on why continued study is vital:



- Year 13s will be preparing for university, an apprenticeship or similar
- Year 11 will be getting ready for Sixth Form, or a vocational course
- Year 10 will achieve 2 of their GCSEs in advance of their final year of GCSE study

Working hard and developing independent study skills will arm students with the skills they need to take the next step in their education or employment.

Summary of key points

- Everything students do today and every day from now on counts, and will contribute towards the evidence we use to tell the exam board what grades students should receive.
- Staff are doing everything we can to keep developing and improving the remote learning experience
- When students are back in school, we will continue to support students and ensure that we are covering and revising everything students will need in order to be successful.

I strongly believe that as a school we are offering the best possible package of education and support and that students will achieve excellent qualifications this year in line with year groups before them. I thank parents for your continued support and I encourage students to keep focussed and trust that we are doing everything necessary to support you.

If you have any issues accessing the remote learning programme, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor. If you would like to discuss anything in this letter or any part of your child's achievement, please contact me on j.mora@theacademycarlton.org or Miss Armitage on k.armitage@theacademycarlton.org.

Kind regards,

Jo Mora
Assistant Head