



8 March 2021

Dear Parent

I hope this finds you and your family well.

I am writing with more information about how grades will be awarded this year in light of the DfE's decision to cancel the 2021 summer exams series as a result of the impact of COVID-19. Ofqual, the exams regulator, has now confirmed that Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) will form the basis for awarding qualifications this summer.

### **Guidance for Schools**

Ofqual guidance confirms that a broad range of work will be used as an evidence base for TAGs including both past and future work. Schools will determine the nature and content of the work to be assessed and are responsible for confirming that students are competent enough in the subject overall to merit awarding a qualification.

Schools are required to have substantial evidence of student work at the level awarded and must have a process in place to quality assure how portfolios of evidence have been marked. The exam boards will sample evidence from a range of schools to ensure consistency of judgements around TAGs and that schools have followed the correct processes.

### **Evidence Portfolios**

The focus for the remainder of this academic year for courses completing this summer, will be on building a portfolio of work for each student that will inform our TAGs as follows:

- Students will build portfolios of evidence of their work in every subject due to complete this summer.
- Evidence portfolios can include a broad range of work, and can include coursework, past mock exams, assessments that students have already done, assessments and work that will be completed both before and after the Easter holiday.
- Exams in May and June will not happen as they normally do, nor will mock exams. Instead, students will be assessed regularly in class for the remainder of their time in school with teachers working with students to build skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence
- A grade will only be awarded where there is significant evidence of work at that level. We will be working hard to support students in maximising their portfolio evidence at their highest possible levels in the coming weeks
- Students will be supported to produce the best work of which they are capable upon return to school.

Students will be supported at every point to achieve their best grades, as they would do if they had been preparing for an exam series this summer. Where students are missing evidence for any reason, we will provide additional support to ensure we gather what we need. This might include subject specialist intervention either during a period 0 or period 6 for years 10 and 11, or as agreed with their class teacher for year 13.

Students may also be allocated supervised time to complete work independently after school for years 10 and 11 and during study periods for year 13. We will work closely with parents and we will talk to you about



timings for intervention wherever we identify a need for extra support. The intervention programme will be under constant review.

### **Key Dates**

Here are some key dates for your diary, we will let you know of any additional dates as and when we have them.

9 March	First phase of teaching and assessment begins with all students back in school
10 March	Assembly for all exam groups at Tutor Time
12 March	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
15 March	Intervention programme begins
2 April	Easter Break
19 April	Second phase of teaching and assessment
23 April	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
31 May	Half term
18 June	Final submission of TAGs to the exam boards
10 August	Year 13 Results day
12 August	Year 11 and Year 10 early entry Results day

It is so important now that every single student, health permitting, is in school every day and is working with us and making the most of all the support we will offer to produce the evidence we need to award them the grades they deserve. We will support every one of our students as best we can so that they are not disadvantaged by the extraordinary challenges they have faced.

We are currently making plans for the final days Years 11 and 13 will be in school this summer, this will be confirmed with you as soon as we have that information to share with you.

I hope this clarifies our plans for the coming months to ensure that your child has the best possible outcomes and is ready to progress on to the next stage in their education or training. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor should you have any queries about this or any aspect of their achievement.

Jo Mora  
Assistant Head Teacher  
Achievement