



30th April 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Further Information update on the 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades in Year 11

As our Year 11 students approach the final stage in this Teacher Assessed Grades process I would like to wish them the best of luck and encourage them to work hard and prepare well in the run up to their classroom based tests which were detailed in the recent letter from Miss Saltariche.

As you know the final GCSE grade is made up of 3 pillars of evidence; the December 2020 mock exams, the portfolio pieces including coursework and the classroom based tests. As we have been informed by the Joint Council for Qualifications, the grades must be supported by evidence of students working at a given level. We know that for the majority of students they will have made expected progress from their December 2020 mock exam and this will be evidenced with higher grade work in both the portfolio pieces and the forthcoming classroom based tests. However, students who have not shown the necessary progress in their portfolio pieces and the forthcoming classroom based tests are likely, in most cases, to be limited to their original December 2020 mock grade. As mentioned throughout all our communications and school based discussions with our young people; working hard following the 2021 exams announcement will have the single biggest impact on their future grades. With this in mind the forthcoming tests should allow your child to demonstrate that they are able to achieve the highest standard so far in Year 11 and hence will represent excellent evidence to support their final GCSE grade.

In the 2 week window following half term your child's teachers and subject leaders alongside the senior leadership team will be drawing together all of the assessment information and through moderation, discussion, careful checking and consideration of all information decide on a final Teacher Assessed Grade for your child in every subject. Mrs Seddon will then finally authorise the grades as a true reflection of all the evidence submitted.

Whilst we expect that Monday 7th June will be their official last day of Year 11, as you are aware there will be some students studying catering and ECDL that will be required to attend at selected times. In the event of any issue arising with any piece of evidence either from the portfolio or test we may require students to attend school in order to address any concerns before the final submission of GCSE grades by June 18th.

We are confident that our process will produce grades that are accurate, robust and most importantly fair. If students are unhappy with their grade following **GCSE results day on Thursday 12th August**, there is a right to appeal which is initially a check to see if an administrative error has been made. If there has been no error made and the students are still unhappy then the school can appeal to the exam board on the student's behalf. If this happens then there are 3 possible outcomes; the grade stays the same, the grade goes up or the grade goes down. Finally, if students still feel they are capable of achieving a higher grade then there will be an Autumn series of exams students can sit in one or more subjects should they choose.

If you have any queries or concerns about the grading in 2021, or indeed any aspect of your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Saltariche and we will be pleased to answer any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr D. Coyle
Deputy Headteacher