



## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

2 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Important information regarding Teacher Assessed Grades and February assessments

Firstly, can I take the opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for the ongoing support for your child's studies and of the wider academy community. The positive feedback and understanding shown by so many have been very much appreciated at this time by all staff. I would also like to take the opportunity to express on behalf of all academy staff how proud we are of the resilience and patience shown by all Y11 students at this challenging time.

You will be aware following the significant rise in infections and the pressure on the NHS the government took the decision to put the country into lockdown at the start of January 2021. At this time the government also announced that summer examinations at GCSE and A-level would not take place, in the normal way. Instead they would be replaced by a form of Teacher Assessed Grades that will be used to award grades for students completing courses in summer 2021. An Ofqual consultation has recently closed (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January) that is considering how teacher assessed grades will specifically work this year. We expect the outcome of the consultation to be announced in the next two weeks. At that point we will have greater clarity on the approach and timeline for awarding grades this year. The consultation has sought views on a range of areas, which gives some indication of what will happen. Whilst the following have not been confirmed there is a good possibility that:

- **Teachers assessed grades** will replace grades that are normally determined by the sitting of final exams and that achieved through coursework.
- These grades will be based on the standard at which **students are working at and have demonstrated not predicted grades as last year**. It should reflect a wide range of work and evidence.
- There are likely to be **shared assessment materials provided to schools** to support the teacher assessment of grades and add to what teachers already know about their students.
- The **deadline for schools for the teacher assessed grades** will be around the middle of June.
- The consultation is seeking views on **results being issued to students in July**.

### So what does this mean for students?

- All students need to **continue to work hard and complete their courses** up to the end of the year, at least up to and including June.
- Teachers will **continue to set and assess work** produced by all students.
- Students should **use the feedback from teachers to make progress and improve**. **Teachers will use the criteria for each course** to support students to understand how to improve and make progress. **Teachers will not grade work as it happens** over the next few months.
- Teachers will **only assess a final grade at the end of the course**. Students should focus on working hard and using feedback to continue to improve and not on accumulating grades.

### What is the purpose of the assessments after Half Term?

The two weeks after Half Term have always been planned as a set of Mock Exams. However, we will continue to use this time to complete key assessments in each subject. Students will...

- Complete an assessment in each subject, during the first two weeks of Term 4. This provides an opportunity for students to show what they can do, know and understand.





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- The assessments have been designed carefully and are based on the curriculum in each subject. Some assessments will feel like an exam paper that you have seen before, some will be part questions. Teachers will inform students of the content and structure of the assessment before the end of term.
- Complete the assessment remotely, at set times across the two weeks (typically aligned to when students would have had the subject)
- Submit the assessment by the time set.
- Receive feedback and a mark for each assessment. The assessments are not graded. Grading through teacher assessment will only happen at the end of the course.
- The feedback that students receive will be used so that students can improve their work.

For those students who would expect to receive access arrangements for assessments staff will be making contact over the course of the next week to offer the opportunity for these assessments to be completed on site. This will allow all access arrangements to be in place as usual.

The assessments are **only one part of the evidence** that teachers will use and the feedback from the assessments and will allow students to improve the quality of the work in the rest of Term 4.

It is not possible to provide more clarity and certainty ahead of the outcome of the consultation. We will fully update students and families when we know more about the process towards teacher assessed grades for GCSEs and A-Levels.

Thank you for your continued support of the academy.

Yours sincerely

Helen Barnes  
Associate Assistant Principal