



26 February 2021

Dear Year 11 students, parents and carers,

Following the announcements this week, I am writing to you to confirm how GCSE grades will be determined this summer.

It has been a very challenging year, both academically, and also on a human level, and I am pleased that the measures set out by the Secretary of State and Ofqual recognise this. Indeed, I think the measures set out, which I will summarise briefly below, is the best of all of the potential options.

Along with this letter is a one-page visual guide to this information which you may find helpful.

In short, GCSE grades will be decided by your child's teachers and quality assured by leaders within the school, utilising a wide ranging portfolio of evidence. This will include mock grades, previous work completed, work submitted during the lockdown and – crucially – the work that students complete when they return to school. This is excellent as it means that every child has the opportunity to continue to progress in their learning and showcase what they can do from when we come back in from 8th March. Students will be assessed on the content they have covered. Teaching staff are working hard to review curriculum plans and prepare opportunities for students to excel.

We are likely to make use of some of the additional, shorter papers that exam boards create, but these will be used to inform our judgements, rather than as summative judgements themselves.

All of our grades, which will be based upon evidence, will need to be with examination boards before 18th June, and your children will receive their grades on 12th August. Students will have the opportunity to appeal their grades if they believe that the school has incorrectly reviewed the available evidence in that subject, or if they think an administrative error may have been made.

We will be publishing the specific evidence criteria we will use to students and parents once the detail comes through from examination boards.

I am pleased that students who have worked hard and continue to do so in this final section of Year 11 will have an opportunity to shape their outcomes through demonstrating what they can do.

Their futures really are in their hands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. McKenzie'.

Mr A. McKenzie  
Principal

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