

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Re: Y11 Assessment Process

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on the Year 11 summer assessments. As you will be aware, it was announced by the government that GCSEs will not be taking place this summer. Instead, schools will assess the standard at which your child is performing in each subject that they study, based on what they have been taught. We want to ensure we approach this with transparency, so that students, parents and staff can work together over the coming weeks, to ensure our students achieve the grades that they deserve.

In summary, each subject (where appropriate) will complete a range of mini, in-class assessments, through a specific time period, which will begin after the Easter holidays. The evidence collated from these assessments will be added to the information that we have already collated from their ongoing assessments. You will receive a detailed plan and timetable for each subject in the next two weeks.

I have provided you with a summary of the key information on how we intend to support students throughout the process:

### How will we decide your child's grade in each subject?

- **Teaching** – we will continue to teach your child in every subject they study throughout the spring/summer term. Final grades are due to the exam board by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Grade judgements** - these will be made from a range of evidence relating to the subject content that your child has been taught throughout the course eg mock exams, homework or in-class assessments. Each subject is working on what evidence has already been collated.
- **Summer assessment tasks** - in addition to using evidence that we already have, we will undertake a number of in-class assessments with your child over the summer term, these will include using some materials provided to us by the exam boards and OAT.
- **Non-exam assessment** – where a subject includes coursework or a practical element, this will still contribute towards your child's overall grade.
- **Students with SEND** - for any student with special educational needs and/or a disability, we will provide appropriate support and reasonable adjustments to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in the summer assessments.

### How will we ensure that the grades are awarded fairly?

- **OAT guidance for schools** - the Trust will provide every school with a clear framework to work to, in order to determine your child's final grade in each subject.
- **Assessed tasks** – for each subject that your child studies, we will inform them of which pieces of work will count towards their final grade, this will allow them to prepare fully.
- **Exam board guidance** – each exam board will provide subject specific guidance and materials for us to use in our summer assessments.
- **Quality assurance** – the school, Trust and exam boards will all undertake rigorous checks and moderation to ensure that consistent judgements are being made about which grade/s your child receives.

### How will vocational qualifications such as BTECs be assessed?

- **Grade judgements** - these will be made from a range of evidence including performance tasks and assessments that your child has already completed.

### When will your child receive their GCSE results?

- **GCSE results** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

I hope that the information above provides you and your child with some clarity on how this summer's assessments will take place and how their grades for each subject they study will be awarded. I will write to you again very soon with an update when we have received further information from the exam boards, which is due at the end of this month. We will also be going through this in detail with every student this week. We realise that there will be a lot of questions and want to make sure each family receives the individual support they need.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, or wish to discuss any aspect of your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Roberts or Miss Lawrence, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Andy Fitzgibbon  
Principal