



Dear Parents and Carers,

12th March 2021

I wanted to update you on what we know about your child's GCSE examination grades this year and the processes that are involved in the awarding of grades. Having spoken to all of our senior students, I have tried to make it explicitly clear that they still have time to positively impact on their final grades. Full school attendance, a positive approach in all lessons and completing any work, exam or assessment set by teachers to the best of their ability will result in them obtaining the grades they deserve. They will get the grades their work shows evidence of and we will support everyone of our students to achieve their best.

Fortunately, due to our change in term dates, we have 11 weeks to collect that evidence. Most other schools have only 10 weeks. We will carry out a full mock examination series which students should now be preparing for. They begin on Monday 22nd March.

They will finish during the first week back after Easter and then we will focus on improving our students' work so that we have the evidence we need to award the grades we feel that work displays. This will take us up to the Whitsun half term on 28th May. This will be the day we hold our Year 11 Leavers Assembly.

After half term, we will be moderating all of their work before submitting the agreed grades to the exam boards. Year 11 students will not be needed in school during this time and will be contacted by colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeships and others to prepare for the next stage of learning and work.

We do not know what will happen to the lockdown protocols later in the year but all things being good, we hope to be able to celebrate our student's successes with some kind of social gathering. This is, of course, dependent on what is happening with the national picture.

GCSE results in 2021: what you need to know

Find out how pupils will receive teacher-assessed grades this summer for GCSEs, and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs).

What's happening?

- Exams are cancelled this summer for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels, as well as some VTQs
- Instead of exams, pupils will receive grades based on assessments by their teachers
- Teacher-assessed grades will be sent to the exam board to be processed

How will teachers make judgements on grades?

- They'll use a range of evidence of pupils' work, like coursework, practice papers and classwork, to inform their decisions
 - Teachers will let pupils know what evidence they'll use before submitting grades to the exam board. This is so pupils can confirm it's their own work, and let teachers know of any mitigating circumstances that might have affected it
 - Teachers will only assess pupils based on what they've been taught
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How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- Our school will have an internal quality assurance process in place that'll take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure teachers' judgements aren't too harsh or lenient
 - Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They'll check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades, and they might also visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
 - We'll submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we've followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process
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When will we get our results?

- **GCSE pupils:** Thursday 12 August
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Can we still appeal?

- Yes, all pupils will have the right to appeal their grade.
 - If you appeal, we'll carry out a review to make sure we've followed all processes correctly and that we haven't made an error in your grade
 - If we do find an error, we'll submit your revised grade to the exam board. If the board is satisfied, it'll issue a revised grade
 - If we don't believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We'll share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade, and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade we set isn't reasonable, they'll provide an alternative grade
 - If you disagree with the school's or the exam board's decision, you can refer the issue to Ofqual's Exams Procedure Review Service (EPRS). The exam board will have the final say unless the EPRS finds that it has made an error
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What about vocational and technical qualifications?

- If you're taking VTQs to progress to further or higher education, you won't have exams. Your grades will also be awarded based on teachers' judgements
 - If you're taking VTQs to go directly into employment, your exams will go ahead **if** they:
 - Are needed to show occupational and professional competence
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- Can be carried out in line with public health measures (If they can't take place safely, they'll be delayed)
- If you want to appeal your results, we can do that on your behalf following the process set out by the individual awarding organisation concerned

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Shepherd or me should you have any queries about the information provided to you. We will do everything we can to enable your children to achieve their full potential following a very challenging final year at school. We need our students to continue to work hard and follow the guidance provided to achieve the grades they deserve.

The grades for all subjects taken this year will be decided by your teachers based on the evidence of your ongoing work and assessments as shown below.

The key points to note are as follows:

We will use a range of evidence to support the grade that are awarded to you. This will include:

- Work completed across the course so far. This is shown in your reports by your current and, in particular, your predicted grade.
- Mock exams – these will run from 22nd March through until the 15th April. You will receive a subject grade and advice on what further actions can be taken to improve your performance.
- Internal class based assessments – these will run in the weeks from 19th April through until May half term. These will allow you to revise content and then complete further mini assessments to give you the opportunity to show your ability at the highest possible level.

There will be a series of reports to show where you are in terms of a subject grade, these will be a full report by Easter, a mock report in late April a final tracking report in mid-May. We will not be able to tell you the final Centre Assessed Grade as these are awarded by the exam boards, these are currently scheduled to be available to you on Thursday 12th August.

Please see the grid below for information on the assessment details for each subject area.

Subject	Mock Examination Detail	Further class-based assessment detail	Further Information if appropriate.
English (Lang and Lit)	<p>English Language Paper 2 'mock' October 2020</p> <p>English Lit question on Jekyll and Hyde October 2020</p> <p>March 2021: Lang Paper 1</p> <p>Lit modified paper – Shakespeare and Unseen poetry</p>	<p>'Mock' type question following revision of 4 out of 15 poems from anthology and Jekyll and Hyde / Christmas Carol/ Inspector Calls question to provide opportunity to up-level on previous performance during summer term.</p> <p>Opportunity to up level previous performance in either Language Paper.</p> <p>Some students still to complete speaking assessments in school. Most completed during lockdown.</p>	<p>Some assessment pieces and short writing tasks completed during lockdown may also be used to supplement evidence.</p>
Maths	<p>Paper 1 – non calculator 90 mins, 80 marks</p> <p>Paper 2 – calculator, 90 mins, 80 marks</p> <p>Paper 3 – calculator, 90 mins, 80 marks</p>	<p>End of Unit Tests taken periodically throughout Y9, 10 and 11. Thorough revision of these as highlighted by the mock exam and current data held will be carried out during lessons.</p>	<p>Analysis of mock papers to target key areas of focus for summer term 1.</p> <p>Students please bring in their revision workbooks and guides for the upcoming half term.</p>
Science	<p>Paper 1 'mock' in October 2020</p> <p>March 2021: 6x 1h10m papers (using Nov 2020 papers)</p> <p>Full content covered</p>	<p>End of Unit Tests taken periodically throughout Y9, 10 and 11</p>	<p>Analysis of mock papers to target key areas of focus for summer term 1</p>

Triple Science	<p>Paper 1 'mock' in October 2020 using 2019 paper</p> <p>March 2021 using Nov 2020 papers:</p> <p>Biology: 2 x 1h45m papers</p> <p>Full content covered</p> <p>Chemistry: 2 x 1h45m papers</p> <p>95% content covered H</p> <p>90% content covered F</p> <p>Physics: 2 x 1h45m papers</p> <p>Full content covered</p>	End of Unit Tests taken periodically throughout Y9, 10 and 11	Analysis of mock papers to target key areas of focus for summer term 1
Art	No Mock Exam – AQA removed exam unit	Coursework Portfolio to be completed & internally moderated	AQA has removed the 40% exam unit for this year and made the Coursework unit 100%
Childcare	<p>R018 Exam – 50%</p> <p>1 hour 15 mins</p>	<p>2 X Assignments</p> <p>R019 – 25%</p> <p>R020 – 25%</p>	<p>Analysis of mock papers to target key areas of focus for summer term 1.</p> <p>Completion of in class extended answer questions.</p>
Drama	Exam 1 hr 30mins 2019	Monologue performances recorded for component 1. Folders will need to be completed.	Component 2 text yet to be studied. Evidence will be the completed concept proformas and if allowed a recorded scene.

Food and Nutrition	1hr 45 examination Completion and assessment of NEA project.	NEA completion during lessons. Revision of key concepts and nutrition.	Food practical examination during lesson time.
French	3 exams as usual – writing, Listening and reading. Using 2019 repurposed for new exam summer 2021 sams papers	An in class speaking, opportunity to complete another listening, reading writing within class.	Exams from Sept 2020, oral from March 2020, End of Module assessments over 2 year course.
Geography	1 exam 2 hrs (Sept 2020) 1 exam 1.5 hrs (March 2021) Based on GCSE exams from 2018/19	2 x Virtual Fieldwork activities – Carding Mill Valley and traffic congestion in Cleobury Mortimer. Each taking 5 weeks of lesson time with common assessment activities + common mark scheme	Decision making Activity from 2019 Paper 3. Taught and assessed with a common mark scheme. Further class based activities comprising revision prior to assessment. One question to be tackled per assessment.
History	Three Exam papers each one an hour covering Health, Normans and Inter War period. Question topic focus given prior to exam.	A series of class-based activities that will include specific revision and question technique practice before completion of in class assessment (6 questions covering the 3 topics). One practice question to be completed per assessment lesson to reduce pressure.	Exams from September 2020 Norman England and Health and the People (2 hours in total) Additional Conflict and Tension paper December 2020 (1 hour)
I-Media	External examination for first unit sat in year 10 worth 25%. Remaining 75% assessed by coursework pieces. These are incomplete	Pupils are expected to complete coursework assignment assessment pieces for units R082 and R084. Previous guidelines from OCR stated that fourth unit	As of 26/02/21 announcement, moderation is now not taking place for Cambridge Nationals and CAG must be

	and ongoing.	would not require written assessment if pupils had been adversely impacted by pandemic limiting access to appropriate resources.	provided instead.
Music	1 hour Mock exam – same format as the exam we did last term.	We will continue working on performance and composition coursework.	
PE - BTEC	Exam completed in Yr10	Unit 2 and Unit 3 coursework a long with the exam will make up the final grade. Waiting on info from Pearson regarding exam resits for those pupils who were due to resit to try and improve their grade.	Moderation is still taking place and a sample of pupils work will be sent to the moderator.
PE GCSE	1hr 15min Mock exam to cover topics on paper 1 and paper 2. Pupils have been provided with a revision list.	PE coursework will count towards the overall grade. There will also be class-based assessment activities. Practical – still waiting to hear from AQA but we will use evidence already submitted and evidence from PE lessons.	Evaluate areas of strengths and weakness from mock papers to give a clear focus for the summer term.
Philosophy and Ethics	Students will sit a 2 hour paper on the 4 Philosophy and Ethics topics- Life and Death, Human Relationships, Good and Evil and	After Easter they will have an in class assessment on Christian Belief and Christian Practice. In class they will also write responses	

	Human Rights.	to a selection of 'd' style exam questions, taken from the 4 Philosophy and Ethics topics, and discussed beforehand.	
GCSE Design Technology (Tx and RM)	2hr Examination Completion and assessment of NEA project.	NEA completion during lessons. Revision of key concepts and specialist area.	

With regards,



Darren Reynolds

Headteacher