



Achievement & Opportunity  
for All

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Headteacher  
Paula Humphreys BSc MBA

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with an update on how A-level grades will be awarded this summer according to all the information that schools have been given thus far by the Department for Education and Ofqual. It should be noted that we are still waiting further clarification of the grading process from the examination boards. We also expect to receive further information for our BTEC vocational subjects. As soon as we have this information, this will allow us to finalise our plans for gathering evidence and awarding grades. We believe the examination boards will try to establish processes which ensure the fairness of the grading process for all students and centres.

While we wait for the final details and before the end of term, we wanted to confirm that students will have assessments taking place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. These May assessments will provide a further opportunity for students to demonstrate their performance and they will form part of the evidence used by teachers to award provisional A-level grades. The assessments will differ in nature from traditional A-level examinations as they will be reduced in number and any content that has been particularly impacted by the pandemic will be excluded from these assessments.

The timing of these May assessments is determined by the date when we have to input our A-level grades to the examination boards. These assessments will be marked internally and then we will need time for our moderation processes, in order to ensure fairness and consistency.

We anticipate being able to share with students and parents, details of which assessments have contributed to the grade awarded by teachers, after the grades have been submitted. It is important to note that we will not be able to discuss provisional grades with students or parents as they are subject to confirmation and potential moderation by the examination boards. The final grades themselves will be issued on the revised A-level results day of 10<sup>th</sup> August by the examination boards.

As stated previously, we are still waiting final guidance and so the arrangements outlined above may be subject to further amendment.

We are also waiting for further government guidance as to the relaxation of Covid-19 safety measures so we can plan our end of year celebrations for Year 13. We do not expect Year 13 students will need to be in school after the May half term. This is still to be confirmed by the Department for Education.

I appreciate this is an uncertain time for students in Year 13 but hope this letter provides some clarity as to the timing of the final assessments which will take place. It is most important to us that our

students are treated fairly and we will continue to work hard to support our students and update families as we are made aware of any developments regarding the awarding of grades.

I would like to thank students for their hard work and parents/carers for the support you continue to provide, both to the school and for your children.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Humphreys". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Paula Humphreys  
Headteacher