



Achievement & Opportunity
for All

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Headteacher
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Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with an update on how GCSE and vocational 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 for further clarification of the grading process from the examination boards. We also expect to receive further information for our BTEC and Cambridge National 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 pupils and centres.

While we wait for the final details and before the end of term, we wanted to confirm that pupils will have assessments taking place between 4th and 21st of May. These May assessments will provide a further opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their performance and they will form part of the evidence used by teachers to award provisional GCSE grades. The assessments will differ in nature from traditional GCSE 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 GCSE 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 Year 11 results day of 12th August by the examination boards.

As stated previously, we are still waiting for 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 11. We do not expect Year 11 pupils will need to be in school after the May half term. This is still to be confirmed by the Department for Education. We will write separately with details of the Year book and hoodies etc. Pupils who have applied to the sixth form will need to attend the Induction day on 25th June.

I appreciate this is an uncertain time for pupils in Year 11 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 pupils are treated fairly and we will continue to work hard to support our pupils and update families as we are made aware of any developments regarding the awarding of grades.

I would like to thank pupils 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 signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P' and 'H'.

Paula Humphreys
Headteacher