

26 February 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

The long-awaited guidance with regards to how grades will be awarded in the Summer arrived in schools yesterday. I can appreciate the frustration you must have been feeling in relation to this. We feel it too.

The guidance states that “teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade a pupil is performing at” and “pupils will only be assessed on what they have been taught”. Schools will receive assessment material from exam boards in March and teachers can use questions and mark schemes from these in order to make further judgements. There are no “compulsory” exam papers that all pupils must sit. However, teachers are being asked to set some additional assessments at the end of each course to assist them in proposing the final grade for each pupil.

We welcome this news, as it means that all pupils across the country are on a level playing field and have the same opportunity to show what they know and can do.

There is a very clear expectation of rigorous moderation by the school prior to submitting grades by 18th June. We have already planned how this will be undertaken and feel very confident in our systems.

Results will be published on 12th August. This is a date to put in your diaries.

We will talk with you more about what this means in finer detail in the next few weeks following our return to school.

For now, the important message is that all the fantastic hard work you have put into the mock exams and your work during lock down will all count as part of the evidence for that final grade. So, keep on doing what you have been doing throughout Year 11 – working hard and trying your best. For those very few who feel they have not yet shown their true potential, there is still time to put in the effort and secure the very best grades.

Kind regards

Ms T Wilden
Headteacher