



Ref: Y11GCSEGradingSummer/CTY/hll

1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11

GCSE Grading for Summer 2021

As you are probably aware, the Government has now announced the conclusion of their joint consultation with OfQUAL regarding how students will be awarded their GCSE grades this summer.

GCSEs

For GCSEs your child's teacher will assess the standard at which they are performing, based only on what has been taught over the course. This judgement will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that has been delivered, either in the classroom or via our remote learning offer.

Teachers will use evidence gathered throughout the course to inform their judgement. This might include work that has already been completed, mock exam results, homework or in-class tests/assessments. Upon students' return to school, teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers, to help assess further but this will not be compulsory.

For GCSE Art and Design, grades will be based on students' portfolios only, whether or not they have finished it. For GCSE English Language and GCSE Modern Foreign Languages your teacher will submit a separate grade or result for the spoken language or practical skills tested, based on work that you have completed.

BTECs & OCR Cambridge Nationals

Students studying a BTEC and OCR Cambridge National are eligible for a teacher assessed grade. This will require teachers to make an informed judgement on the grade received using a variety of evidence, such as performance of tasks or assessments that have already been completed.

Engagement and Opportunity

As I have stressed in my previous correspondence, it is imperative that students **stay engaged in their learning and study** as long as possible so that their hard work can be considered when awarding the final grade. When students return to school in the week beginning Monday 8th March, their teacher will confirm which pieces of work will count towards their grade before it is submitted to the exam board.

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This is an incredible opportunity to ensure students are awarded the grade they deserve; however, I must stress that **they must earn their grade by continuing to engage with the work set and make the most of the opportunities and lesson time they have.** There are at least nine school weeks remaining for students to improve, secure or potentially decrease their grade and the arrangements for this year are designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible.

Submission of Grades and Results Day

Teachers will submit grades to the appropriate exam boards no later than **Friday 18th June**, guaranteeing that quality assurance arrangements by the exam board ensures consistent judgements are being made. OfQUAL and the Department for Education (DfE) are working towards results becoming available on **Thursday 12th August 2021**. I will write to you again with more information about these dates.

Appeals

Any students that are unhappy with their grade can submit an appeal to the school, so that they can check whether an administrative error has been made. If a centre does find an error in the grade submitted, it can submit a revised grade for the board to consider. If a centre does not believe an error has been made, the centre will appeal to the exam board on the student's behalf, and will be supported to do so.

I appreciate that this is a stressful time for you and your child and there has been a great deal of uncertainty, but I hope the support, information and remote learning we have offered during this period has helped you and your child(ren).

Although I am disappointed that the examinations cannot go ahead, I believe this is an improved process compared to 2020. I am confident that the year group, as a collective, would have achieved well in 2021, it is now up to the students to continue to prove this. As we did last year, teachers will be fair and accurate in their judgements based on all the information we have; we will continue to support each and every student to ensure they achieve the grades they deserve.

Finally, I would like to ask for your support again in keeping your child(ren) motivated, ensuring they stay fully engaged in their studies, attend school every day on time and make the most of the opportunities they have during their final few weeks.

Yours faithfully



Mr Critchley
Principal

Further Information

The below link provides further information.

https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-qualifications-will-be-awarded-in-2021?fbclid=IwAR3xv_iUSBfR44_dbcb9keGdjLHjYypRgoRQccl6shR3KLVDHUXQaDN7ing

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