

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

On 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced, in the context of new national restrictions, that exams in summer 2021 could not go ahead as planned. On 13 January, the Secretary of State asked Ofqual to jointly consult on alternative arrangements to award grades. The consultation ran between 15 and 29 January and received over 100,000 responses. Yesterday the Government released some details regarding Teacher Assessed Grades for 2021.

Please find a link to yesterday's publication with a summary below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf

Summary of the information:

- Exam boards will ask schools to generate, for each subject, teacher assessed grades for their students. These grades should be based on a range of evidence completed as part of the course, including evidence produced in the coming months, which demonstrates the student's performance on the subject content they have been taught. Exam boards will not prescribe the evidence that centres must use. Teachers can draw on existing records and available evidence from any point in the course. These may include: student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers. This may also include substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning), internal tests taken by students, mock exams taken over the course of study, records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE and records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study.
- Exam boards will provide a package of support materials to help teachers make these judgements and will provide further advice on how centres should collect and submit evidence. The grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the student's performance across a range of evidence, on the curriculum content that they have been taught.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18 June. This allows as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments. We will confirm the official 'leaving day' at a later date.
- Schools cannot share the teacher assessed grades with students or parents / carers.
- Exam boards will provide details of the quality assurance requirements. Each centre is required to put in place an internal quality assurance process, including internal standardisation of marking and grading judgements, which will be checked by exam boards.

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· Exam boards will also check a sample of the evidence used to support teacher grades. Heads of centre are required to confirm, when submitting their grades, that the exam board requirements have been met.

· Exam boards will publish guidance in March, so teachers have a clear understanding of how to make fair and consistent judgements. Exam boards will also provide schools and colleges with support, guidance, and training on how to minimise the risk of bias and malpractice.

Appeals

If a student wishes to appeal, centres should undertake an initial process review to check all processes were followed correctly and no errors were made. If the school or college finds an error, they can submit a revised grade to the exam board.

If the student still wants to appeal, they will ask their school or college to submit a formal appeal to the exam board for them. The exam board will check the centre followed its own processes and exam board requirements as well as reviewing the evidence used to form their judgement and providing a view as to whether the grade awarded was a reasonable exercise of academic judgement.

If the exam board finds the grade is not reasonable, they will determine the alternative grade and inform the centre.

The earlier exam results dates provide time for Year 13 students to have any appeals dealt with before university places are finalised.

Exam results day confirmed:

Tuesday 10 August (A Level Results)

Thursday 12 August (GCSE Results)

It is our intention that students will be able to collect their results from the school site that day if it is safe to do so. Confirmation of specific times and details will be published in the summer term.

Next Steps

We will be working with the exam boards, teachers and students over the next few months to ensure that evidence to determine grades from across the duration of the student's course is fair and representative of the student's ability.

We will inform parents and students with reasonable notice should a decision be made to re-run the mocks or use exam board testing material.

We look forward to seeing the students return on Monday 8 March 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Barlow
Principal