

23.04.2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11,

We have now had more information about the government's process for awarding GCSE grades. I wanted to provide clarity on this process.

Year 11 students are being issued a link to an assembly which outlines this whole process. I encourage you to sit with your child and understand the process in detail in addition to reading this letter.

The main action from this letter is that your child needs to sign up to a course preparing them for further study. Please follow the link at the end of the letter.

Year 11 Grades

Year 11 GCSEs will not take place this year. Instead, the Government has assured us that students will receive recognition for their hard work and that this will be done fairly.

Ofqual have now issued information about how this will work, which is outlined here: [Ofqual Guidance to Parents](#)

Exam boards will ask exam centres to generate, for each subject, **centre assessment grades** for their students. The centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment. It is important to understand that this centre assessment grade is not their mock grade, a previous working grade or their target, it is the schools best estimate of what the pupil would have achieved if they sat the exam.

Ofqual will check that data against the national picture and the historical picture of the school and adjust where necessary. They will decide the final grade.

Schools are being asked to rank order the students within each of those grades. This is so that Ofqual can adjust the numbers of students getting grades in a school fairly.

This process is confidential, and staff must not discuss the centre assessment grade with pupils or parents. Please do not ask staff about these grades.

Getting ready for 6th form study

We do not learn our subjects simply to achieve grades, but because there is value in learning in itself and because the knowledge and skills we learn are vital to our success in the next stage of our lives. We want our pupils to thrive at 6th form, university and beyond and so we want to make sure your child is supported to be ready for September.

Normally, the GCSE exams themselves are the focus and these generate a great deal of learning. In their absence we will prepare pupils for 6th form differently.

We are asking Year 11 pupils to select one of three cohorts:

Cohort 1 – Retake GCSE English and/or Maths: You didn't get a 4 in your Mock in English and Maths and so need to continue to learn Maths and/or English probably in order to take these GCSEs in Year 12. This cohort will continue to study English and/or Maths GCSE until June 19th. This applies to you if you are going to be doing a Level 2 course (or you think you can access a level 3 course elsewhere) if you carry on learning English or Maths.

Cohort 2 – Bridging to Success at KSA 6th form You are ready to start your A-level / BTEC Course and will commit to studying for your courses between May 18th and June 19th (5 weeks), and completing further work over the long Summer holiday.

Cohort 3 – Individual plans elsewhere You got a 4 in English and Maths in your Mocks but you don't want to study any of the courses being offered at KSA. We will give you bespoke preparation work for your course but this will not be supported by teachers.

For Cohort 2, pupils will be able to show they are able to study the course by through the Bridging Course. This will be used instead of GCSE grades awarded in August, as the GCSE grades will be based on what pupils were most likely to get, whereas the Bridging Course completion will be based on what you have **actually learnt**. We will therefore allow entry to these courses based on the Bridging Course. Pupils

Those that have been unable to complete the Bridging Course will have to sit tests in September to show they are ready for the course.

Please ask your child to complete the link by **Thursday 30th April** at 5pm. This can be done by following this link: [Preparing for 6th form registration form](#).

A reminder that your child will have registration form time at **10.30am on Monday**. This is where the Year 11 team will talk to your child about next steps. This will continue **every week** for this half term.

I hope this letter makes you feel informed. Please look at the frequently asked questions on the next page if you still have any queries.

I appreciate that this is a very difficult time for your child in thinking about their future, but we are here to support them and you in preparing to be successful.

Yours,

Max Haimendorf

Principal

See next page for FAQs

Frequently asked questions

How will teacher be awarding grades and what evidence will they be using?

All exam centres have been issued with guidance on the process from Ofqual. We will follow that guidance to ensure that, given the circumstances, pupils will receive a fair grade that reflects the most likely grade they would have achieved had they sat their exams(s) this summer. This will include non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study

Can I submit more work now to help teachers make their judgement?

We are still sending pupils work to complete as it is important for them to continue studying so they are prepared for their next stage of education, employment or training but we will not consider this work as a part of the centre assessment grades, as the government does not want to disadvantage pupils who have been impacted by COVID-19.

When will results be published?

GCSE results will be issued to pupils on Thursday 20th August.

Can I find out my results beforehand from my teacher?

NO. You MUST NOT contact your teacher in advance. They will NOT be able to give you any information on your grades. Attempts to unduly influence grades can be seen as malpractice and will be reported to exam boards.

Will they have the chance to re-take GCSEs or A Levels next year if they don't agree with the grade they receive this year?

Yes. Pupils can always take exams again in summer 2021 but there should be no reason for most of them to do so if they are awarded grades this summer. The school will pass on information to relevant pupils and parents as soon as we have it. The Government are also proposing to run an exam series in the autumn for those that were entered for summer exams but disagree with their grade. More details have yet to be published but we will let you know as soon as we can.

What if I don't agree with the grade that is awarded to my child? How do I know this was done fairly?

If a pupil does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021. We will issue more guidance on this when we have it from Government.