



16 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Update – GCSE and Vocational course grades

It has been great to see our students return to school over the last week, particularly Year 11 students, many of whom have worked so hard over lockdown on remote learning. They have continued their excellent attitudes to learning, and most understand that they still have the power to influence the grades that they will receive in the summer.

We now have more information about how grades will be awarded this summer, although we are still waiting for more precise information from the exam boards.

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website www.gov.uk/ofqual

The key information for GCSE subjects is:

- Grades will be decided by schools based on available evidence
- Students will be assessed on what they have been taught
- Further assessment should be undertaken to ensure there is enough evidence to demonstrate the grade a student is working at
- Students need to complete coursework / non-exam assessment so they can be included in the portfolio of evidence
- Art & Design will be based solely on a student's portfolio
- Results day will be Thursday 12 August



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How vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded in 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/1

Qualifications most similar to GCSEs and A levels e.g. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Technicals	Qualifications not similar to GCSEs or A levels e.g. Functional skills and ESOL Skills for Life	Qualifications with occupational skills or proficiency assessments e.g. construction, plumbing and electrical qualifications
 Taken only in schools or colleges  Do not assess occupational skills	 Taken in schools, colleges or other places  Do not assess occupational skills	 Taken in schools, colleges or other places  Assess occupational skills
Your results	Your results	Your results
 Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement  Various sources of evidence used  Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels	 Assessments should continue where possible  May be awarded using other evidence or judgements  Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed	 Assessments can continue as normal where possible  Assessments may be delayed  Assessments can be adapted if needed
Visit www.gov.uk/ofqual or search 'Ofqual 2021 qualification explainer tool' for specific details (coming soon)		

The key information for BTECs and other vocational subjects is:

- Grades will be decided by schools based on available evidence
- Students will be assessed on what they have been taught
- Students need to complete coursework and component assessments to evidence the grade they are currently working at
- Results day will be Thursday 12 August

Teachers will continue to teach and revise course content to ensure that students have secure knowledge and are able to demonstrate their understanding. Whilst students will not undertake formal exams, it is important that they complete as much of their courses as possible so that they are able to move onto their Post 16 destinations in the best position possible. All work completed will also contribute to the evidence we need to gather to justify centre assessed grades.

Student learning will be reviewed and assessed using classwork, homework, mini-assessments, end of topic tests, past GCSE papers and mock examinations. We urge you to encourage your child to complete every piece of work to the best of his/her ability, and revise properly for mock exams, so that the grade he/she receive on results day in August is one that truly reflects his/her ability.

It is also important to continue completing any coursework or portfolio work in art and vocational subjects as these will definitely be included in the centre assessed grade process.

In order to support students, we will continue to provide Period 8 teaching on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on Tuesday 16 March; we will often use this time for revision and key assessments.



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We will also continue to use Teams and remote learning to provide students with resources and revision materials to support them over the next few weeks. In the unfortunate event that student's have to isolate, they should start on remote learning again – work will be available immediately.

Schools will have to justify the grades that students are given and no single teacher will be responsible for the outcome of any student. We will use the same robust system we put in place in summer 2020 to ensure centre assessed grades are checked against all available evidence both internally by senior leaders and externally in conjunction with other schools in BDAT before submitting anything to the exam boards.

Staff will not be able to discuss individual grades with parents/carers, however we are keen to discuss your child's progress and attitude to learning with you and answer any questions you may have. Therefore, there will be a Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 21 April so that you can meet your child's subject teachers – this will be conducted online again. More information about this and when booking goes 'live' to follow.

We know this continues to be a challenging time for students and understand that there are difficulties given the high number of uncertainties. We want to assure you that our priority remains that our students are not disadvantaged by the current situation as much as possible.

Finally, our careers team continue to support students with their progression into life after Year 11 – Mr Grant and Mr Ryan are working closely with Year 11 students to make sure that they have everything in place for September. Please contact them at school img@buttershaw.net if you have any concerns with Post 16 applications.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Richard Humphreys
Associate Headteacher



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