

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Year11 Students

I wrote to you all on the 5<sup>th</sup> January to encourage you to keep going with your education and not be overly disappointed by the decision to replace your planned exams with a new system. Since then, I have been very impressed by the resilience and commitment you have shown and the way the majority of you have engaged with live lessons. Well done.

Last week the Government, working with OFQUAL (the organisation responsible for ensuring GCSE grades are awarded fairly) published a document with proposals for how GCSE grades could be assigned this summer, in the absence of normal GCSE exams. I felt it important to write to you with a summary of these as there has been much speculation in the media, however; it is important to stress that **these proposals are not confirmed yet**, and could all change, but I wanted you to be aware of what is being recommended.

The process being proposed includes:

- 1) Teachers assigning grades in June based on **the standard you are performing at** in each of your subjects at that time, not a projection on how they think you would have performed in exams.
- 2) Teachers will be asked to use a **range of evidence** to make this decision, including:
  - “Mini-assessments” that you could take in May and June here at school. They will not be a full series of exams and you will not be tested on topics we have not been taught yet (due to disruption to Year10/11 teaching).
  - Other sources of evidence including previous mock results, coursework and any recent assignments or work from class. Importantly, more weight is to be placed on the standard of the work you are producing at the time; this is particularly important for those of you who are working hard now and want to improve on the grades you achieved in your mocks.
- 3) The grades that teachers assign will be fully standardised across a department, monitored by the senior leadership team, and then moderated externally. This will involve moderators looking at the evidence teachers have used and confirming the process. At The Dean Academy, where many of our teachers are trained examiners, we are confident that





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we can accurately assess and assign grades based on all the available evidence we hold for each individual student.

It is important to know that the above summary is just a proposal and we will write to you as soon as any finalised plans are released. For now, we need Year 11 students to have an awareness of these proposals, but the focus for you all should remain on attending and engaging fully with your live lessons and completing all of the work you can to the very best of your ability. It is essential that with “mini-assessments” being one of the proposals discussed that we all keep focused and, as challenging as the circumstances are, that we do not stop working. Remember that as a school we are still here to support so do reach out to us if we can help you in any way.

**We will make sure you are fully supported and treated fairly – all you need to do is show up to every lesson, complete every piece of work and try your best.**

Yours sincerely

**Richard Brand**  
Headteacher

cc Year 11 Parents

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