

26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, the Department for Education and Ofqual released on Thursday the outcomes of the consultation regarding the arrangements for awarding of GCSE and A Level grades this summer. Whilst more clarification is likely to be outlined over the coming days, we felt it important to share with you some of the key points that we know thus far.

Centre Assessed Grades will be assigned on what students have been taught

Schools will be asked to assess students' performance only on the content that has been delivered to them by their teachers, in order to determine the grade each student should receive. Schools are being asked to use a range of evidence to inform this including: mock results; in class assessments; and the use of optional mini assessments in the Summer term, which will be provided by the examination boards. Importantly for Year 11 students there is still lots of time ahead before any decisions are made so the only advice, we are giving at this time is to continue working hard.

Vocational Qualifications to be assessed in a similar way to GCSEs

For those students sitting vocational qualifications such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals the process will be similar to GCSEs with a range of evidence being collated, which will include the non-exam assessments (coursework) within these subjects.

Key Dates

The submission deadline for the centre assessed grades is 18th June and schools are being advised to collate evidence as close to this date as possible. At present we do not have a date when our Year 11 students will no longer be expected to attend school, but we will inform you of this at the earliest opportunity. The published results collection date is August 12th.

Autumn Exam Series

As with last year, there will be the opportunity for students to sit external exams if they wish during Autumn 2021, alongside an appeals process should any student feel there has been an administrative error.

We understand and appreciate that this news will be a source of anxiety for many of you and your children, so please be reassured that we have been preparing for such an eventuality since September and feel confident that we will be able to submit grades that will be a fair representation of the hard work and progress that our students have been making thus far this academic year and will continue to make upon their return from 8th March. The message to our Year 11 students remains consistent; keep turning up to lessons with the attitude to





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Richard Brand: Headteacher

learn and completing all work to the best of your ability and your efforts will be rewarded.

One final point that is emphasised in the documentation is that whilst staff can discuss openly the evidence that we have for students (e.g. mock grades, test grades etc...) we are unable to inform students or parents of the centre assessed grade that they will be likely to submit for them.

There will be an assembly from Mr Brand on Friday morning for all Year 11 students that will summarise much of this information. If following on from this you, or your son/daughter, have any further questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Rowlands (hannah.rowlands@thedeanacademy.org).

Please be reminded that our rearranged parents evening for Year 11 will be on Wednesday 10th March and we will be able to discuss these details with you then in more depth. Many thanks for your continued support during these unprecedented times. The mature and focused manner in which our Year 11 students have continued to face the challenges put in front of them has been nothing short of outstanding and we look forward to welcoming them back on 8th March and working with them in their final couple of terms at The Dean Academy (a separate letter has been sent with details of the return to school plan including necessary mass testing).

Yours sincerely

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RJB/HR/TW – Y11 Ofqual-260221



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