26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may know the Government and Ofqual reported yesterday their guidance on how we should proceed in recommending grades to the exam boards.  The latest guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

In summary the guidance stipulates that:

* Teachers must assess their students’ performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.
* Teachers can use evidence of a student’s performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
* Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.
* Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.
* Heads of centres will have to confirm that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education, although we will not set requirements about the minimum amount of content that students must have been taught.
* Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not is has been completed, but we will not require exam boards to moderate it.
* In GCSE, AS and A level art and design, the student’s grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed.
* In GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages and A level sciences (biology, chemistry, physics and geology), centres should determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement. This result or grade should be based on work that has been completed towards the endorsement.
* Overall, it will be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years.

We are working through this guidance with each Department to formulate the policies, protocols and processes that will allow us to consider how we will assess each student's performance this year. We will ensure that this is completed as quickly as possible and once this is complete, we will inform students and families in due course.

I appreciate that you may have a number of questions from this guidance. However, given the array of considerations and possibilities that the decision has left open to schools, we are unable at this stage to offer any further clarity on this matter until we have decided how we will proceed. Once we have arrived at our position, we will obviously ensure that any questions can be answered as fully as the guidance allows.

I would like to thank you for all your support in the encouragement of learning through the period of school closure.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Bradley

Director of Sixth Form