



19 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your continuing support during this period of remote learning. I do not underestimate how challenging this is for our students but we are fortunate to have such a positive and resilient community of parents and carers, and we are enjoying working with you to ensure that both remote learning and in school provision is as effective as it possibly can be. Thank you also for all of the positive feedback and emails – this really does mean a lot to us.

Given that Year 10 are currently going through their 'first' GCSE I wanted to let you know that there is a consultation from the DfE and Ofqual on how GCSE grades should be awarded in summer 2021. This is now open and the approach they are proposing is below.

### **Proposed approach to examinations in Summer 2021**

- Students would continue with their education during this academic year.
- Students would be assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June.
- Teachers would submit grades to the exam boards by mid-June.
- External quality assurance by the exam boards would be ongoing throughout June.
- Results would be issued to students once the QA process is complete, most likely in early July.
- Student appeals could be submitted immediately following the issue of results and would first be considered by schools and colleges.

Through this joint consultation, Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) want to hear the views of students who were due to take their exams, their parents and carers and their teachers.

If you would like to respond to the consultation, it is now open. Please follow the link here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BY14T/> The closing date for the consultation is Friday 29 January.

The consultation refers to the possibility of exam board questions to provide some consistency, short papers, question choices and moderation between subjects and schools. We are not able to pre-empt the outcomes of the consultation but our priority, when we can welcome students back, will be to support and guide them as well as securing time with their teachers, to consolidate essential knowledge in lessons. As a result, the Year 10 school exams scheduled from Friday 5 March 22 to Friday 12 March, will be postponed until a later date. These may also be remodelled based on the findings from the consultation.

I appreciate this is a hugely unsettling time for everyone and we will continue to keep you updated as and when we know more. Please do keep encouraging your child to focus on the here and now, by completing classwork to the best of their ability but also taking time away from the computer or phone screen to have some down time or take some exercise. I will of course continue to update students and parents as soon as we have concrete information on any of the detailed arrangements following the consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Lamb', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Lamb  
Headteacher

