



The Castle School

ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AU

Tel: (01823) 274073

Fax: (01823) 274080

Email: office@castle.somerset.sch.uk

www.castleschool.co.uk

Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

7 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all safe and well.

I know there have been some concerns from students and parents about how the PPEs next week could be used to inform a Centre Assessed Grade. Currently the Government and OFQUAL are consulting with schools about how the process will be conducted. When we know more, I will be in contact with you again.

I can confirm that now the PPEs next week will be held virtually and will not be under formal 'exam' conditions, they will take on a completely different meaning and purpose. To clarify and, hopefully, reassure you and your child, the PPEs will not have a significant impact or weighting on your child's final Centre Assessed Grade. Rather, they will be another opportunity for students to look at exam papers and practise exam questions.

At this point, I am as certain as I can be that your child will be back in school in time for us to conduct assessments. GCSEs are a reflection of the hard work students put in and all the indications are that schools will be expected to make professional judgements on their students. I know the students have always enjoyed learning and been engaged in their lessons, and their teachers know them well.

I understand that this can be a very difficult time for our students and, with this in mind, I am currently working with Senior Students and Mrs Sherring to devise a strategy to support good mental health for our Year 11s.

We will await the guidance from OFQUAL before we make any decisions about how our teachers will determine your child's grades. Until then, we will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum to all examination groups, delivering the planned specification content. Your child is entitled to a full education and it is important that they have the necessary knowledge and understanding for the next stage of their lives.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Many thanks for your support and understanding in such a difficult situation – it is hugely appreciated by all my colleagues.

Your sincerely

Mr Lamb

