



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The news of the outcome of Ofqual's consultation arrived with us, at the end of last week and we wanted to share some of the general messages with you. We still have a lot of detail to cover and are now awaiting further information from the exam boards. When we have this, we will come back to you as soon as possible.

A) Student GCSE results will be teacher assessed grades

Teachers have been instructed to award grades for every student on the basis of the level they are performing at, rather than what they would predict a student would have achieved had they sat exams in normal conditions. These will be submitted to the exam boards no later than 18th June 2021. This means that a portfolio of evidence for every student, for individual subjects, will need to be collated, marked and moderated in time to input these grades. This portfolio will include work already undertaken (where appropriate) as well as evidence of a student's ability, which will be assessed from now until the end of May. This could include coursework, classwork, exams or tests and Heads of Department are currently compiling a list of suitable evidence. Evidence may vary from subject to subject and student to student, depending on their performance in each task. Students will be made aware of the evidence teachers will be using to calculate their grade and will have to sign a declaration form to state that they have completed the work without any unauthorised assistance.

B) Assessment material produced by exam boards.

At the beginning of the consultation there was some uncertainty as to how these would be used. Ofqual have confirmed that they will simply be a bank of questions, which subject teachers can use, if they feel it is appropriate. They will not, be set as formal exams. We are, however, exploring an assessment window in the summer term where students would sit short pieces of work to ensure they have every chance to demonstrate their ability. They will take place in lessons, and those with access arrangements will be accommodated, to ensure they are given the correct level of support.

C) Quality Assurance

There will be both internal and external (from the exam boards) assurance processes. We are currently planning our own internal processes but are awaiting further detail on these requirements. These will be approved by the exam boards and will be published to both students and parents in advance. Exam boards will sample schools to scrutinise these processes and the quality of work supporting a predicted grade to ensure there is rigour and a national approach. This checking process will ensure there is no grade inflation and the grade submitted is supported by full and thorough evidence. We, therefore, will need to ensure our internal moderation processes are standardised and fair.

D) Appeals process

GCSE exam results day has been brought forward to 12th August. Students will not know their final grades until this day. Schools will handle any appeals in the first instance, but these can be escalated to the exam boards. Ofqual have been very clear that an appeal could only take place if a student feels there has been an administrative error on submission of their grade, especially if a school has followed exam board instructions on implementing a full and thorough internal moderation and standardisation process. An appeal is unlikely to change a final grade.

I hope this gives you a clear overview of some the key points. As always, we will come back to you with detail once we have more. We are still awaiting further information about the end date for Year 11. Students should assume they will be in school for the majority of the summer term.

Please rest assured we will make sure all students are supported through this process and teachers are ready to assess where gaps in student work may be more apparent than others.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Pope".

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher