



26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to provide you with a brief update following the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Education in relation to the awarding of student grades for this year's summer examination series.

It is imperative that we continue to provide parents and carers with regular and informative updates regarding this year's summer examination process to ensure that we guide our students through their final stages of their respective qualifications with care and unrelenting support given their enforced absence from school.

The key headlines from the announcement include:

- Student will receive grades that are awarded and determined by the teachers who know them best and will not be based on an 'algorithm'.
- Teachers will be able to base the grades they award on a broad range of evidence which could include mock examination data, in class and non-examined assessment. Teachers will be able to describe the evidence that will be used to inform student's grades but not the grade itself.
- Those students who study Art and Design at GCSE and A level will be assessed by portfolio only.
- Teachers will be required to provide a final grade submission by 18 June 2021, allowing as much teaching time as possible before submitting their assessments.
- A level and GCSE results days will take place in the week beginning 9 August 2021, with A levels announced on 10 August 2021 and GCSE results on 12 August 2021. This is to allow additional time for transition planning and possible student appeals and is a change from the previous published date.
- If a student wishes to appeal their grade they can do so by submitting an appeal to their school who will submit this to the exam board on their behalf.

This information can also be viewed in the infographic that can be accessed through the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964613/Infographic_-_how GCSEs AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964613/Infographic_-_how_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_will_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf)

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Naturally, there is much more to digest and explore following the consultation as we formulate our response. What is certain is that our response will be one that provides students with the support, advice and guidance they need to secure the grades that their hard work deserves.

For now, it is imperative that students continue to attend their online provision and remain connected to learning. I have been immensely proud of their continued commitment and mature approach to remote education as have their teachers who tell me constantly how amazing they have been during what has been a hugely challenging period.

I would like to finish by assuring parents and carers that we will work tirelessly to ensure that every student is provided with a very clear pathway to success through regular discussion and dialogue with teachers and leaders and of course parents and carers too. The value of our partnership in supporting students to achieve in this unprecedented year cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your continued support and I will provide you with a further update in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Eardley', written in a cursive style.

Dr C Eardley
Head of School