

29th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Awarding of GCSE grades in the summer 2021

I am writing to give more detail regarding how GCSE grades will be awarded this year. Parents/carers will be aware that, because of the Government's decision to cancel formal examinations this year, GCSE grades will be awarded via teacher assessed grades and results will be published on Thursday 12th August 2021.

I trust that, by now, you have received notification of your child's exam entries for this summer's GCSEs and other qualifications. The subjects listed will be the qualifications that your child will receive. The GCSE qualifications will range from grade 9 to grade 1 but a U (unclassified) may be awarded if your child has not produced work to a GCSE standard. Grades 1 to 9 are all GCSE passes but represent different levels of achievement. If you have not received such notification as yet, or have questions regarding your child's exam entries, please contact Mrs Millar, Examinations Officer, at the school.

Schools are required to submit teacher assessed grades to the examination boards by Friday 18th June. Parents/carers will be aware that ongoing teacher assessment for Year 11 pupils has been taking place since all pupils were able to return from lockdown on 8th March and will continue until grades have to be submitted. I have written to parents/carers before about the advisability of Year 11 pupils attending lessons and this is still the case given that assessment is ongoing (springfield.uk.net/School_Life/Letters_to_Parents/25.03.21). It is certainly the case that pupils can still impact on the grades they achieve this year by continuing to work hard.

The JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) requires that schools explain to pupils and parents the evidence they will use in determining grades. This requirement forms part of the Centre Policy which we have published on the school's website:

https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/examinations/Centre_Policy.pdf

Below is a summary of the range of evidence that we, as a school, will use in determining GCSE grades:

- We will be using pupils' work produced in response to assessment materials recently provided by the examination boards
- We will use non-exam assessment (NEA) even if this has not been fully completed
- We will use pupil work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as awarding organisation materials
- We will use substantial classwork or homework, including work produced during remote learning where appropriate
- We will use internal tests taken by pupils
- We will use mock exams taken over the course of study

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It is important to remember that the grade awarded is based on an holistic judgement of pupils' work over the course of study, not just on one assessment and not on content that has not been covered. Please be aware that, for numerous reasons, there may also be variation in the range of evidence from pupil to pupil.

Parents will also note in the Centre Policy that schools are required to keep teacher assessed grades confidential until results are published on the 12th August 2021. Teachers may give raw scores for completed assessments but will not discuss how this equates to final grades with pupils and, it is fair to say, pupils have understood that this has to be the case.

Once results have been issued pupils and parents will have the right to appeal. Exact details have yet to be finalised and Ofqual have recently published a consultation paper asking for views on their proposals. This consultation will run until 5th May and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk>.

Once proposals have been finalised, I will write again with further details.

I have been impressed with the maturity of the Year 11 pupils since their return and wish them well for the remaining weeks.

Yours faithfully

Mr W Wharton
Deputy Headteacher