

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find enclosed your son's/daughter's mock examination results from December 2020. We are really sorry that we could not share the 'unveiling' of the results in the normal manner, communally and supportively. We hope to find some way, maybe through remote lessons, to discuss the results with your child soon.

You will be aware, no doubt, that grades are on a scale from 9 – 1, nine being the highest. A grade U for any subject means that a GCSE equivalent grade was not achieved for that subject. If your child studies a subject for which a grade is missing it is probably because they were absent for that examination. If your child studies Child Development, grades are awarded at Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P) and Not Passed (NP).

You will also know that the Prime Minister announced on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January that the summer series of GCSE exams were to be cancelled and replaced by teacher assessments in some form, the details of which are yet to be decided. It is difficult, therefore, to say at this particular moment of the academic year exactly how GCSE grades will be determined for your child.

It is important to note that, last year, GCSEs were determined by Centre Assessed Grades standardised by teachers. This process, dictated by Ofqual last year, emphasised that grades were decided by 'a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment...' as well as 'other relevant data, including prior attainment..'

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm\\_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

It is important, therefore, that pupils and parents are aware that the enclosed mock grades do not represent the final GCSE grade in a subject. Mock grades are only one piece of evidence in deciding a final Centre Assessed Grade, not the definitive one. Equally, the Programme of Study in each subject is unfinished, as yet, at this point in time – the enclosed grades therefore represent a portion of GCSE content.

Consequently, pupils who have done 'well' should not become complacent, nor should pupils who may be disappointed with certain grades now 'switch off' because of lack of motivation. Year 11 pupils make good progress between December and June of Year 11 as long as they keep working consistently, (whether that is via remote lessons or, eventually, when they are back on site) and actively listen to – and absorb - the advice of their teachers.



I hope that your son/daughter is encouraged by these results and, if not, start to put into practice work and study habits that will impact on the results they achieve in the summer. Your child's teachers are here to support in this endeavour – pupils should not hesitate in asking for the help where needed.

I will write again when we have a clearer, and more defined, awareness of how GCSE grades are to be determined in the summer of 2021.

Yours faithfully

Mr W Wharton  
Deputy Headteacher