

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Final Grading 2020/2021 – Guidance

As you will remember, on the 6th January 2021 the Government cancelled the 2021 Summer Exam series. As a College we completely understand that this has caused confusion and anxiety and I want to thank you for your patience in waiting for this guidance. While exams have been cancelled, we will still need to assess students to identify their current working at grades ready for submission in June. In order to give staff enough time to mark, moderate and standardise the assessments, the remaining assessments will take place between **Monday 12th April and Friday 28th May.**

We feel it is very important that we are open about the assessments that each student will sit and how this will make up their final grade. Students will have been through their assessment timetable in form time but I wanted to share the overview with you so you also understood the process.

Assessing the students:

Teachers will use a range of assessment information to gather enough information, to assign a grade that accurately reflects how each student is performing. The Government expectation is that we give a current working at grade, therefore we cannot rely only on Mock Exams or previous predicted grades. It also means that the bulk of our assessment must happen in the next half term. Each subject team has allocated a weighting to each assessment. This means that a large assessment completed in May might make up more of the final grade than a smaller assessment that took place in December, for example. Further details of the assessments for each subject and their weightings can be found here:

<http://www.cityleicester.co.uk/parents/exams/>

Ensuring Consistency:

Each department will have clear marking guidance for each assessment. Departments will also have a clear plan for standardisation and moderation of assessments, to ensure consistency of assessment between teachers. Students will have the opportunity to see their marked work to ensure there have been no errors in marking, or the counting of marks for their assessment. The assessment materials will be a mix of past papers; exam board generated assessment materials and; assessments compiled by subject leads. The type of assessment will not be shared in advance so as to not disadvantage any students. Students who are entitled to concessions will also receive them.

Awarding Grades:

Grades will be awarded based upon the performance across the range of assessments. Heads of Department may use previous grade boundaries to help inform the grade boundaries for each subject. However, these assessments are being sat under very different conditions to previous examinations and following a very different educational experience. Heads of Department and Senior Leaders will use the overall level of performance in each subject and their professional

judgement to set the appropriate grade boundaries. This will be done on a whole cohort level rather than an individual basis to ensure potential bias is removed.

Results and Appeals:

A-Levels and Post-16 results will be published on August 10th and GCSE and equivalent will be published on August 12th 2021. If a student feels they have not achieved the grade they may appeal to the College. For those who fear they will miss out on a University or College place there will be the option of a “priority appeal” that will be processed early. Please be aware though that if you opt for an appeal, there will have to be clear grounds for appeal and the grade could move up or down so this should be done with caution. There may also be an option to sit an exam in the autumn term, but this has not been confirmed by the Government.

If you would like more information about the expectations outlined by the government, the guidance published so far can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

If you have any questions about the process, I urge you to read carefully the government guidance and speak to your child before contacting the school as I understand this is a complicated process that none of us have gone through before. If you have any questions that you cannot find the answer to though, please do get in touch. Please also keep in mind that the Department for Education have said that there will be further guidance coming out soon which may mean we need to make a few adjustments to our process if there is anything unexpected in there. We feel very strongly though that we have a fair and open system that will reward students for their hard work and subject knowledge.

Thank you again for all of your support over this last year, we have a fantastic group of students who have had to deal with unprecedented barriers to their education. They have all acquitted themselves fantastically and that is thanks to all of the support you have been able to give them.

Yours sincerely



Mr K. Vernon
Head Teacher