



8th March 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Year 11 and Year 13 Awarding Qualifications Update

We hope that you continue to remain safe and well.

We have been delighted to welcome pupils back this week and would like to provide you with an update of key information regarding the curriculum and exams.

On 23 February, the Secretary of State for Education published direction to Ofqual regarding the process of awarding qualifications in 2021. He confirmed that this year's cohort of GCSE, AS and A Level students should receive grades based on teacher's judgements of their performance. He also confirmed that for BTEC qualifications where exams are part of the assessment, similar arrangements to GCSEs and A Levels will be adopted.

On 25 February, following a two-week consultation to seek views on how best to provide alternative arrangements to this year's exams, the Government published their initial guidance. The guidance can be found here:

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

In summary, the guidance states that schools must ensure sufficient coverage of the curriculum is achieved to enable progression onto the next phase of study. It also clarifies that to achieve this there should be a balance between continued teaching and any assessments.

Therefore, upon their return to face-to-face lessons, pupils will continue to receive high-quality lessons from their subject teachers that enable all pupils to strengthen their understanding in every subject. It remains a priority that our pupils receive the very best education to prepare them confidently for their next steps. In line with previous correspondence, all pupils must continue to approach every task set by their teachers with diligence and focus.

As we have always stated, assessment will still take place in some form during the remaining time in Year 11 and Year 13. Whilst the Government guidance above provides an overview of the types of assessment evidence that could be used to support this, it is imperative that we acknowledge and reflect on exam-board specific guidance that will be released later this month.

Whilst we acknowledge that pupils and parents will be keen to know the exact details of this process, it remains our priority that the awarding of qualifications in 2021 will be robust, fair and meets all exam board quality assurance expectations. Therefore, I can confirm that a comprehensive overview of the assessment process will be communicated to you without delay once approved.

If you have any further questions, queries or would like to discuss any element of the above, then please do not hesitate to email j.smith@decschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Smith
Assistant Head Teacher

Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher



How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

ofqual

Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade



Graded by teacher judgement



Not graded by an algorithm



School and college assessments can continue



You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught



Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you



Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded

Evidence



Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence



Non-exam assessment should continue



Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete



Art & design grade based only on your portfolio



Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to



Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best

Results and appeals



Results days

AS and A level 10 August
GCSE 12 August



If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.

You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website



www.gov.uk/ofqual