



Dear Parents/Carers,

13th January 2021

RE: Exams update.

As I promised when I wrote to you on the 4th, as soon as more information on qualifications was released, I would update you. Today, we have heard an outline of suggested approaches for assessment of year 11 and 13 students that will be put forward for consultation. In summary, these suggestions include:

- An affirmation that teacher's judgement of student's grades will be sought.
- This judgement must be backed by a wide variety of evidence.
- It is likely that some of this evidence will be derived from externally set assessments. It is very likely that these will be in the form of mini-assessments or exams that are internally sat, marked and then moderated both internally and externally.
- Quality Assurance will be done internally by school leaders **AND** also externally by the exam boards.
- There will be no algorithm (thank goodness!).
- The date for submission of grades by schools will be made as late as possible.
- Grades should be derived from content taught and not from the entire course.
- Vocational qualifications such as OCR Sport or BTEC Animal Care, will be awarded in a similar manner to GCSE or A-Level qualifications.
- The Deadline for UCAS submissions has been pushed back and the documents linked below have affirmed that the Universities Minister has pledged to ensure that Universities are not oversubscribed.

Now we know this, can I be absolutely clear that it is imperative that students keep working. Whilst exams are not running in the usual way, students will be assessed on the work that their teachers have set them to do in whatever method of assessment is used.

Please find links to the documents I have summarized:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951797/Letter from Gavin Williamson to Simon Lebus.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951797/Letter_from_Gavin_Williamson_to_Simon_Lebus.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951778/SL to SOS 2021-01-13.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951778/SL_to_SOS_2021-01-13.pdf)

Please be aware that these are only broad proposal guidelines at the moment and will be going through a consultation process and are subject to change.

Our staff are working tirelessly to ensure that students have quality work to do in line with the expectations I published on Friday.

Thank you for your continued support and as soon as we know any more we will again get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Belshaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Damian Belshaw
Head of School