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12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents

We hope that this finds you all well and staying positive. It would be our wish to give you firm information about the procedures for GCSE grading by now to help set your minds at ease. However we have received no further details following the recent consultation that closed on 29th January.

Having gone through the consultation document, there are indications of what we might expect and although these are subject to change, it is worth sharing these with you at this stage.

It seems clear that the grades will be based upon the standard at which the students are performing rather than a prediction about how they may have done in summer exams. This suggests that students will need to take some form of assessments, potentially tests or individual exam style questions after they return to school. It is proposed that these are marked by teachers and there will be some moderation processes to ensure that the marking is reliable. Therefore it is really important that students remain engaged in the learning that teachers are leading. This will no doubt include some consolidation of content that has been covered.

You may have read about exam boards producing tests to be sat in the summer term. This is discussed in the consultation but at this stage is just a proposal. It appears that these may form part of the assessments that students will take when back in school but we will wait until this is confirmed before we consider how these might be conducted.

There is also mention of subjects that include coursework. Marks from these may well contribute to the overall assessment which is why teachers may have asked students to continue with these tasks.

In terms of timescales, it is proposed that grades will be submitted by teachers in mid-June and then issued to students in early July. There is likely to be the opportunity to appeal grades once they have been issued although there are no details about how an appeals process might work.

We fully appreciate how unsettling these uncertainties are for our Year 11 students. Please rest assured that as soon as we receive guidance about the process we will update you and plan how grades will be awarded fairly at Oathall. Although there are clear messages about continuing to work as hard as you can, students must also be mindful of their wellbeing. We very much want them to have a break over the half term holiday.

With kind regards

**Mr T Houghton**

Deputy Headteacher