



## Hall Green School An Academy

1.4.21

Dear Year 11 pupil/parent/carer

As we head into the Easter break and come to the end of the first two weeks of final assessments, I'd like to share with you further information on how your final GCSE grades will be calculated and what to expect in your last term at Hall Green School.

As you may be aware, the Government released further information on how GCSEs will be graded over the weekend and I have attached a document to this email that explains the overall grading process in detail. What the exam boards will be asking us to do is award grades based on evidence of the level of your knowledge and understanding produced throughout your KS4 courses. Evidence that we gather towards the end of Year 11 will be given more weighting than evidence you produced before Christmas or in Year 10 and Year 9. The evidence that will carry the most weighting will be the assessments that you are currently completing since you returned to school at the start of March and will continue after the holiday. Each department will make it clear to you which evidence will be used in their subject, and this will be the same for all pupils unless you have been spoken to regarding *extenuating circumstances*. If there are any other extenuating circumstances that have been caused by the pandemic that you think we should be aware of then please email our Exams Manager, Mrs Dhillon, with an explanation of what those circumstances are. If the extenuating circumstance is missing time from school due to self-isolation, then we have those records and there is no need to email. Mrs Mac is ensuring appropriate access arrangements are in place for those pupils entitled to them, and if you have any concerns about the provision we have put in place then please let Mrs Mac know immediately.

Therefore, all of you need to be aware that the assessments after the Easter break are key to determining your final grade and, as I have said before, you should treat them as if they are the 'real GCSEs' that previous Year 11 students have sat. A strong revision programme over Easter is vital and, as we have discussed previously, you should be aiming to have five or six 45-minute revision sessions per day over the Easter holiday. Ideally, you should do these early in the day, so that you can have time for other activities after your study and then go to bed at a good time in the evening – getting plenty of rest is vital too. It's also important to build in some breaks, so I would encourage you to revise during Monday to Friday over the holiday and take weekends off. Make sure you know which topics you should revise over the Easter break so that your revision is targeted towards the assessments you will have when you come back to school.

At school we are doing our utmost to make sure these assessments are as fair as possible to all pupils. All of our departments have many years of experience in setting, marking and moderating tests and assessments and will draw on this to ensure fairness. If you have concerns about any of the assessments you take, then please make sure you talk to your class teacher as soon as possible after the assessment. If you have any concerns about the overall

process that we will be following to calculate your final grades please speak to me as soon as possible, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Where appropriate, teachers will share with you the raw marks from final assessments and tests so that you can get a sense of how you are doing. However, we will not be able to tell you your grade, or share grade boundaries with you. Please don't attempt to try and apply previous grade boundaries to a test you have just sat – they are unlikely to be correct as most of the assessments you are sitting are not complete exams. Additionally, grade boundaries move from year to year, so looking at grade boundaries from 2019 will not help work out a grade boundary for these assessments.

**One point I must make very clear about your GCSEs is that it is vital that you, or anyone acting on your behalf, do not make any attempt to influence your teachers' judgements about your grades. This would constitute malpractice by you and we have been instructed to inform exam boards of any such attempts so that they can investigate. Likewise, you must not attempt to fabricate any evidence, either through plagiarism or by cheating in an exam. Again, we must report to the exam boards any examples of plagiarism or cheating and this could jeopardise all of your GCSE grades.**

I'd also like to take this opportunity to clarify what will happen after May half term. The Government has now announced that for the majority of you, your last day in school will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. However, we will be setting work for you on ClassCharts to help you with your transition into post 16 courses and I'll let you know more about this work next term. A small minority of pupils may be asked back into school after Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, if we feel there is work that they still need to complete, and we'll let you know if this includes you nearer the time. Results day will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August so please keep that date free in your diary!

Finally, we are hoping that if lockdown rules begin to relax in spring we will be able to hold some leavers' events in the manner that we have been able to do with previous year groups. I'm really hoping these events are able to go ahead, however, attendance is always at our discretion, therefore it is really important that your behaviour in and around school remains excellent so that you can be invited to these leavers' celebrations.

Best wishes and good luck.

Mr M Hosfield

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