



## Hall Green School An Academy

28.4.21

Dear Year 11 pupil/parent/carer

We are now moving to the last few weeks of Yr 11 and I'd like to share further information with you regarding the awarding of GCSEs in 2021.

As I wrote to explain at the end of last term, JCQ and the exam boards are asking us award grades based on evidence of the level of your knowledge and understanding produced throughout your KS4 courses. The grades we award will then be externally moderated by the exam boards, before grades are shared with pupils on GCSE Results Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Our Centre Policy details the way we will award GCSEs in 2021 and will be available on the School website once we have shared it with JCQ. I have again attached a document produced by JCQ for students and their families that provides further information for you on this year's awarding process.

There are a number of points I would like to emphasise in this letter.

1. 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 the return to school at the start of March and that are continuing until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Each department will make it clear to you which evidence will be used in their subject, and this will be the same for all students unless there are *extenuating circumstances*. If there are extenuating circumstances 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.
2. Your strongest evidence is likely to come from these final assessments. Therefore, continuing to revise for these assessments is essential. Equally, attending all of these assessments is vital – if you miss one of the final assessments, we may need to replace that assessment with one from earlier in the course which may not have been representative of how you are working now.
3. 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.
4. Where appropriate, teachers may share with you the raw marks from assessments and tests taken before Easter so that you can get a sense of how you are doing. However, under no circumstances will we be able

to tell you the grade we are putting forward for you. Do NOT attempt to try and apply previous grade boundaries to a test you have just sat – they will not 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.**

If you have been provided with a **school laptop**, you must return this to school by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at the latest. Failure to do so will mean that you will not receive your GCSE certificates in August until we have had the laptop returned.

Finally, we are hoping that if lockdown rules continue to relax 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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