

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well.

There has been much speculation about the grading process for the year 11 students. You will be aware from our previous correspondence that students will be graded using teacher assessed grades. The OFQUAL guidance summary of assessment and evidence is outlined below:

- Teachers must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
- Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.
- Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.
- Heads of centres will have to confirm that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education, although we will not set requirements about the minimum amount of content that students must have been taught.
- Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed, but we will not require exam boards to moderate it.
- In GCSE art and design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed.
- Overall, it will be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years.

We will be using the next 8 weeks to ensure all of our students have the evidence to secure the grades that they are working towards and it is therefore essential that all students are attending the academy each day and that there is no lost learning time.

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We recognise that this is a very different process compared to the examination system where previously students were awarded a grade based solely on the performance in a terminal examination, now the teacher assessed grade process gathers evidence over a period of time and so the on-going work that students are currently doing is extremely important as part of this process to inform their final grade.

The subject teacher will assess evidence to support the 'teacher assessed' grade. Internal standardisation will then take place so that all teachers in the academy making judgements in a subject do so in a consistent way which will also include a process for internal sign off of grades. Students will sit a weekly assessment in all subjects and this will form part of the holistic evidence gathering process. We will use a range of sources and this will include questions that are produced for specific use during this period by the exam boards.

Moderation will then occur within the Trust to ensure that the awarding of grades is accurate and consistent. Moderation is a rigorous and robust process that is used to quality assure the judgements. External quality assurance may be carried out by exam boards which would involve sampling, at subject level, the evidence on which grades were based. As Head of Centre, I then declare that the grades that have been submitted are determined in line with the centre's approach and the exam boards' requirements.

I recognise that this is a very anxious time for young people and in particular for our year 11 students who have been impacted greatly by COVID. It is extremely important that if you notice any levels of anxiety, that you inform us so that we are able to put support in place and I am very happy for you to contact me direct.

Should you have any specific queries relating to the process please could you email CAG2021@E-ACT.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Dr J Bartlett
Head Teacher