



19 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Awarding of GCSE, A Level and Vocational Qualifications - Summer 2021

We would like to thank our Year 11 and 13 students and families for their patience over recent weeks, while we have taken time to reflect upon and process the information and guidance from the DfE and Ofqual. Our guiding principle is that our process must reflect the national guidance and deliver the aim of a fair and robust system to award these qualifications.

In addition to the information released by Ofqual, exam boards have been directed to provide additional guidance, materials and training to support and quality assure the assessment process in schools. Early communications suggest this will include advice on content coverage, topic selection, marking and making grading judgements. Some of this information is due at the end of March with 'additional assessment materials' now due to be published after Easter. We will update and refine our process and protocols once we have more detailed information from the exam boards.

In the meantime we have outlined here some key points and a draft timeline. Given that we do not, at present, have the final guidance this information is subject to change.

Key points:

- The overriding guidance from Ofqual is that this process must be **fair**: students should be treated fairly and consistently in relation to the rest of their cohort and nationally.
- Teachers will assess the standard at which students are performing, based only on what has been taught (providing there has been sufficient coverage of the course content)
- This is an **evidence based** process and the grade they receive will be based on a 'basket' of evidence we gather.
- The process must also be **robust** - we must be confident that the work submitted as evidence is the students' own work without any inappropriate support from home or tutors
- The evidence gathered can be made up of historic pieces and new pieces. We will let students know what evidence we will use to determine the final grade submission
- Some new evidence will be obtained through in-class assessment. These are not simply 'exams by another name' - just a mechanism to support the final determination of the grade
- Appropriate access arrangements will be given to those students who are entitled to them when completing these in-class assessments.

Draft timeline:

- Week commencing 22nd March - in-class assessments begin in some subjects, including end of topic tests or assessments that would typically take place at this time

EASTER HOLIDAY

- Further guidance will be available to us from the exam boards and we will communicate this accordingly
- Week commencing 12th April - w/c 24th May in-class assessments continue.

HALF TERM

- Week commencing 7th June - some students may still be required to complete in-class assessments.
- Friday 18th June - final levels/ grades submitted to the exam boards.

We appreciate your patience and support at a time which is challenging for exam years students and their families. We will communicate further once we have received the final guidance from the examination boards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher