

AUDENSHAW SCHOOL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO HELP BUILD
EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MEN.

Principal: Mrs J Saw

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Dear Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers,

Today, the Department for Education has published the results of its consultation on the process of awarding GCSE grades in Summer 2021.

At the heart of this process is the requirement for all schools to report 'the standard (grade) at which a student is performing at, based only on what they have been taught, so that the school can determine their grade.' This is very different to the guidance last year which asked schools to submit the grade they think students would have achieved, if they had sat the examinations as normal.

For GCSEs, teachers will assess the standard at which you are performing based only on what you have been taught so that your school or college can determine your grade.

Teachers' judgements should be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that your teachers have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Teachers will be able to use evidence about your performance gathered throughout your course to inform their judgement. This might include work that you have already completed, mock exam results, homework, or in-class tests. Your teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers, to help assess you, but this will not be compulsory.

The arrangements for this year are designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible, so your teachers' judgement of your work should take place as late in the academic year as is practical. It is important that you keep engaged in your learning and study as long as possible so that your hard work can be considered in your grade. And, it will stand you in good stead for the next stage of your life. Teachers will tell you which pieces of work will count towards your grade, before your grade is submitted to the exam board.

We know that some of you may be worried that you have not covered all the content for a particular subject, however, we will make sure that you have been taught enough content so that you can progress to the next stage of your education. We want you to make the right choices about your next steps and help provide the support you need to study your chosen subjects at a higher level.

Please continue to work on your non-exam assessment (NEA) work or coursework wherever possible. We know that for some of you, this will be more difficult, especially if you need the specialist equipment at your school or college. Teachers will mark your NEA and it will contribute to your overall grade, whether or not it has been completed.

For GCSE art and design, your grade will be based on your portfolio only, whether or not you have finished it. And, for GCSE English language and GCSE modern foreign languages, your school or college should submit a separate grade or result for the spoken language or practical skills tested, based on work that you have completed.

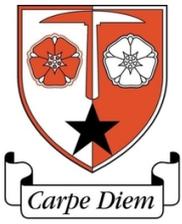
As a result of the disruption students and learners have faced due to the pandemic, the government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held this year in a way

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which is fair. All parts of the education system are working together to make sure that you are still able to get your grades and can carry on with your lives, whether that is continuing with education or training, or going into the workplace. To be of value, qualifications must reflect what you know, understand, and can do and must be widely understood and respected.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time. There has been a great deal of uncertainty, and many of you will have missed out, not just on teaching and learning, but on the support offered by face-to-face contact with fellow students, friends, family and employers.

Parents/carers and students are asked not to contact the school or their teachers to make their case for a particular grade during this period. As a school, we have an excellent track record of assessing our students' outcomes accurately so we believe we can complete this process in a way that is fair to all of our students and that protects the integrity of the GCSE examination system nationally. It is clearly very important for our students and parents/carers to trust us to complete this exercise in a carefully considered, rigorous and professional manner.

We will review Ofqual's future documentation very carefully and will provide further guidance and clarification as soon as we can. We intend to take these processes very seriously and we recognise the important role that we have to play in ensuring that every student gets the grade that their efforts deserve.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Murphy

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