

26 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Zoom Information evening

On **Thursday 28th January 2021 at 5pm to 6pm** there will be an information evening for year 11 students and their parents/carers regarding the proposed way in which GCSE grades will be awarded this year. This meeting will include a presentation from myself and various members of the year 11 team. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions at the end. Please join the meeting via the zoom link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86943148524?pwd=d1VucHVQV1ExS3l3S2ZRVHVGTGI4Zz09>

A summary of the consultation on how GCSE Grades should be awarded in Summer 2021

The DfE (Department for Education) and Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), have issued a 46 page document, with 68 questions, for people to respond to by January 29th. The purpose of this summary therefore, is to bring the key points to your attention as they are contained within this document.

Lest you think that this consultation is not really your concern, Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator, Ofqual, has said that: *If you are a student or learner who was due to take exams, or the parent or carer of a student, we want to hear from you.*

1. The consultation proposes that in summer 2021 a student's grade in each subject will be based on their **teachers' assessment** of the standard at which the student is performing. In the absence of exams, the DfE and Ofqual view is that teachers, *once provided with the necessary guidance and training*, are best placed to assess the evidence of the standard at which their student is performing.
2. To help teachers make objective decisions they propose that **exam boards should provide guidance and training**, and make available a set of papers, which teachers use with their students as *part of* their assessment.
3. The consultation seeks views on whether such papers should be provided and, if so, what form they should take, when they should be made available, and whether their use should be compulsory.
4. Similarly, the DfE and Ofqual propose that teachers continue to assess any **non-exam assessment** (NEA, which you may know as coursework) that a student has undertaken in a subject.



5. They further propose that teachers should draw on *a range of broader evidence* of a student's work in making their final assessment.

6. The grounds on which students can appeal their grades are to be decided.

7. The DfE and Ofqual are seeking views on the **timeline** for the proposed arrangements. They propose that:

- students would continue with their education during this academic year
- students would be assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June
- teachers would submit grades to the exam boards by mid-June
- external quality assurance by the exam boards would be ongoing throughout June
- results would be issued to students once the external Quality Assurance process is complete, most likely in early July
- student appeals *could be* submitted immediately following the issue of results and would first be considered by schools and colleges

If you would like to know more about this consultation, please join the zoom meeting on Thursday or indeed if you would like to respond to it, then please see the full consultation document via the below link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

Warm regards,



Mr A Barzey
Head Teacher
Heron Hall Academy

