

3 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Further to the recent announcement from Ofqual on how GCSE and A level grades will be determined this year, we are writing to you with further information about the procedures and how this will relate to your child.

### **Centre Assessed Grades and evidence**

We will assess your child's performance, only on the curriculum content that has been delivered, to determine the grade which should be awarded. We will use all the evidence of your child's performance throughout the course to inform this holistic judgement and we will not be putting in place a whole suite of pre-public examinations. We will determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, as this will enable teaching to continue for as long as possible and to ensure we have taught a sufficient amount of curriculum content to allow progression to the next stage in your child's education. However, there are no set requirements about the minimum amount of content that must have been taught.

Your child should continue to work on any set non-exam assessment (NEA), if it is applicable, and this will take place in lessons. The NEAs will be marked by teachers in school and will contribute to the overall grade awarded for a subject, whether it has been completed or not, and this work will not be moderated by examination boards. Students will be told their NEA raw marks in due course. In GCSE and A level Art and Design, the grade awarded will be determined by their portfolio work. In GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages and A level sciences, we will determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement of the spoken element of the course in GCSE English and modern foreign languages examinations, as well as of the practical element in the A-Level science examination, based on the work that has been completed.

EPQ qualifications will be awarded in the same way as GCSE, AS and A levels this year. It will be no easier or harder for your child to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years.

### **Assessments in Terms 4 and 5**

Students have already completed a number of assessments over the course of their GCSEs or A levels. However, Heads of Departments will be setting some additional assessments to gather further evidence to combine with that which has already been generated. Please note that not one single assessment will inform your child's final performance. This will be starting from the last week of Term 4 and will continue during Term 5, once the students have settled back into school. All students will have two weeks' notice prior to an assessment and will be aware of the content being assessed in order to allow for appropriate preparation and revision. We will only assess content across all subjects that has been covered. Assessments will occur during normal lessons and we will work to ensure that these are coordinated in order not to overburden your child.

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**Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust**

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## **Access arrangements**

All students with access arrangements and/or needing reasonable adjustment will carry out the assessments in line with their needs and Mrs Hosier (our SENCo) will liaise with the relevant teachers.

## **Support materials**

To support the determination of grades, examination boards will provide a package of support materials to schools which will include questions, mark schemes, data about how students typically performed in individual questions and exemplar materials, as well as advice for teachers about content coverage, topic selection, marking and making grading judgements. This will be based on past questions and will include a proportion of previously unpublished questions for every subject. It will be at the discretion of our Heads of Department to use these exam board support materials for the forthcoming in-lessons assessments as it is not compulsory to do so; if they are used, they will be part of the full range of evidence we will use to determine the centre assessed grades.

## **Quality assurance**

Examination boards will work to ensure that requirements for internal quality assurance (QA) and arrangements for external QA are consistent. Our internal QA arrangements will include consideration of the profile of results in previous years as a guide to check that our judgements are not unduly harsh or lenient. Examination boards will put in place arrangements for external QA to check each school's internal QA process and will process the grades submitted only after completing, and being satisfied with, any external QA. Examination boards will require us to submit a declaration signed by the Headteacher, confirming that the requirements for internal quality assurance have been met and that the school considers the grades to be accurate. We will also substantiate that if your child requires access arrangements or reasonable adjustments, they were provided with appropriate input from the SENCo and/or other specialists. Finally, we must confirm that we have taken note of any guidance issued by the examination boards about how to minimise bias and discrimination and we are confident that we have a robust system to address this.

## **Reports**

As per our published report calendar, parents and carers of Year 11 students will receive a report via Edulink on 12 March which will provide an indication of your child's current grade from assessments carried out in each subject.

Parents and carers of both Year 13 and 11 students will receive a final report on 11 June which will include comments from your child's form tutor. If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this final report, or the grades it indicates for your child, do contact the school once it has been issued.

The deadline schools have been given to submit final assessed grades to examination boards is 18 June. We are not permitted to share these grades with you in advance of the results days, but you should expect them to be in line with the assessments and reporting you have received during this academic year.

## **Results days**

Results days will be on 10 August for A level students and 12 August for GCSE students. We will confirm further details concerning the arrangements for these days nearer the time. Ofqual are currently consulting on whether they should hold an autumn examination series this year.

Following these results days, progression from year 11 to year 12 will be dependent on reaching the published entry criteria for Weald and for their subject choices.

### **Appeals and results**

There will be the option to appeal the Centre Assessed Grades awarded to check whether an administrative or procedural error has been made. If we do identify an error in the grade submitted to the examination board, we can submit a revised grade and a rationale for the board to consider. If the examination board is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade. If an error has not been made, your child can ask the school to appeal the grade awarded with the examination board. The school will submit your child's appeal to the examination board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made. The examination board will consider whether, in its view, the grade reflects an appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If the examination board judges that it does not, it will determine the grade that the evidence would support and check that the school had followed its own process. An examination board will only revise a student's grade at appeal where the board finds the evidence on which the grade was determined cannot reasonably support that grade, rather than as a result of marginal differences of opinion. It is important to note that your child's grade could go up or down following an appeal.

We cannot confirm, at this time, the date for the last day of school and students are expected to continue to focus on their studies as usual.

We will provide further updates as information becomes available. As ever, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

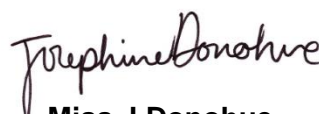
Yours sincerely,



**Mr K Fidock**  
Assistant Headteacher



**Mrs B Swaffer**  
Acting Head of Sixth Form



**Miss J Donohue**  
Head of Year 11