

Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy



Inspiring
Achievement

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Dear Year 10, 11 and 13 Parents/Carers/Students

How GCSE and A-Level grades will be determined in summer 2021

In my letter last Monday I outlined the general principles behind the process in which schools are expected to determine GCSE and A-Level grades this summer. Today I'd like to explain about the proposed plan that we have in place for this and then just before Easter I hope to share with you the details regarding the content and scheduling of assessments.

We already have a wealth of evidence about the performance of students throughout their courses. However, some of this data has been collected during the lockdown periods and some evidence is from previous years and may no longer reflect the current understanding and knowledge of students. In addition students were not aware at the time that this evidence was collected, that it may be used for the setting of final grades.

The Government has encouraged, though not made it compulsory, for schools to complete further 'mini' assessments using resources supplied by the exam boards who are also supplying mark schemes and other support materials. We have therefore made the decision that every GCSE and A-Level subject will produce a minimum of 2 assessments that will be sat by students next term between Easter and the half term at the end of May. It is likely that these will be scheduled in two blocks, one immediately following the Easter holiday and the other in mid May. The results of these will form the basis of our teacher assessed grades, though the marks from NEAs (Non Examined Assessments) will also be used in subjects where they are part of the specification. Assessments will be marked randomly by subject teachers, where there is more than one teacher, and moderation will take place at school and across the Trust schools. The other evidence will then be used to cross check that the grades that this produces are valid.

Rest assured that our approach will be to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in this process and that it is objective, fair and unbiased.

More details to come just before Easter but in the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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