

April 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response in relation to the procedure for the awarding of A Level, GCSE and Vocational grades this summer. It does appear that the majority of concerns have been addressed. However, there were a small number of queries which I would like to respond to.

- Please be assured that all exam access arrangements and SEND needs will be met including the use of technology as the normal way of working.
- Guidance from the Department for Education is clear that the full curriculum does not need to be covered and the priority for education providers is to now focus on the assessment of students in a fair and valid way. Where a student is intending on progressing to study a subject at university and would wish to access resources on missed content, efforts will be made to provide support on an individual basis.
- Some concerns were raised regarding the weighting of assessments that will be used to inform grades. Please be assured that checks and balances are in place to allow for the use of additional evidence where a student's performance in assessments is significantly below expected.

In relation to absence, JCQ guidelines are clear that we are required to authenticate students' work. For practical purposes, this eliminates the possibility of a student sitting Seen assessments remotely. It will be possible to supervise and authenticate Unseen Controlled assessments remotely where absolutely unavoidable. Further guidance on the alternative evidence to be used in this circumstance in relation to Seen assessments will be provided in due course.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I would like to wish you and your families an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Holtham
Executive Principal: Post 16 Education