

Year 11 - UPDATE

Dear Student and Parents / Carers,

No doubt you have been keenly following the news for any latest update regarding education and, more specifically, the awarding of GCSE grades in the summer. You may remember a number of weeks ago, the Prime Minister announced that examinations would not go ahead for 2021. We know this is an uncertain time for all of you and wanted to update you with the information we have currently.

Last year GCSE grades were awarded through Centre (Teacher) Assessed Grades. This year however, examination boards will in all likelihood ask for evidence of internal assessment, and want some type of formal, final assessment - most probably an examination.

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) are conducting a consultation on how grades should be worked out in 2021. This consultation period ends on 29th January. At the minute they are proposing the following:

- Students should be taught as much of the course content as possible – teaching should go on until a final assessment period in May and June. This makes it very important that you continue to complete all of your lessons, assignments and preparations for final assessment.
- In addition to the work produced by you in live lessons, homework and assessments, they are proposing examinations are taken at school and marked by teachers as the final assessments you do. This means that your teachers may only be able to make a decision about your final grade based on work you have submitted (including any assessments or PPEs) and any final assessment by exam. It is therefore vital you continue to prepare and study as though a final exam is taking place.
- Exam boards will provide examination papers which allow some limited choice over topic in case you have not been able to cover the whole course. This means that you must do your best to engage fully with lessons and complete both classwork and any extra tasks set to help you catch-up. Revision will be important in preparing for any examinations.
- Exam boards may choose to sample and moderate the evidence that teachers have referenced when producing your grade. The school goes through a thorough moderation process in a 'normal' year so this isn't a new development. Exam boards will reserve the right to change grades if they do not agree that there is enough evidence to meet the grade awarded. Again, this makes it very important that you engage fully with work set by your teacher and work to the best of your ability at all times.

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- Courses such as Art, or subjects with elements which would have been assessed by your teacher, are likely to require you to produce a portfolio of evidence and teachers will have to be confident that you have completed this without support. It is likely that this work will then be collected and moderated by an external moderator. Therefore, at present, complete your practical assessments/investigations independently and to the best of your ability.

Please be aware that these are just proposals for the moment. As stated earlier, further information is due to be released on the 29th January 2021 and we will of course keep you updated with further developments once we understand the implications of them. It may however be some time before final guidance from Ofqual and the exam boards is produced.

In the meantime, the local colleges have produced some reassuring videos for you watch. The video links are on the website and the school Facebook page.

Moving forwards, it is imperative that you continue to do your best. It is not merely about attending lessons. As stated above, it is likely that evidence of your successes will be required. That is why it is vitally important that you engage as well as attend and submit your work regularly to your subject staff. We could summarise this by:

DEMONSTRATE – your talents, ability, knowledge and understanding in your class work and assessed pieces.

ENGAGE – keep evidence of your work and submit it once it is complete.

PREPARE – expect a final assessment so organise your work, try to fill any gap and revise thoroughly.

If you have any questions at this time, please feel free to contact the school on office@stb.academy or S.Taylor@stb.academy and we will do our best to answer them.

If you wish to register your thoughts on the proposals, you can do so by following this link.

[Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-summer-2021)

Kind regards



Mr S Taylor