

Principal: Emma Robins



Dear Parent/Carer,

## Year 11 Examinations Update

I am writing to parents and carers to update you on the latest information released to schools about examinations for Year 11 this year. I apologise for the length of this letter, however I felt it was important to share with you everything we know so far.

As a result of the disruption students and learners have faced due to the pandemic, the government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held this year in a way which is fair. All parts of the education system are working together to make sure that your child is still able to get grades to enable them to carry on with their lives, whether that is continuing with education or training, or going into the workplace. To be of value, qualifications must reflect what your child knows, understands and can do and must be widely understood and respected.

I appreciate that this is a stressful time. There has been a great deal of uncertainty, and many of your children will have missed out, not just on teaching and learning, but on the support offered by face-to-face contact with fellow students, friends, family and employers.

The Department for Education and the exams regulator, Ofqual have consulted on what to do and reached decisions, which were published on Thursday 25th February. You can read about this in detail here: [General Qualifications decisions documents](#) and [Vocational and Technical Qualifications decisions documents](#).

### GCSEs, BTECs and Cambridge Nationals:

Teachers will assess the standard at which your child is performing based only on what they have been taught so that the school can determine their grade. Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that they have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Teachers will be able to use evidence about your child's performance gathered throughout the whole course to inform their judgement. This might include work that is already completed, such as, mock exam results, homework, in-class tests or

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mini-assessments. Your child's teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers, to help them assess, but this will not be compulsory. Reasonable adjustments will be taken into account if your child has a disability.

The arrangements for this year are designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible. As such, your child's teachers' judgement of their work will take place as late in the academic year as is practical. It is important that you strongly encourage your child to keep engaged in their learning so that their hard work can be considered in their grade. Once further details from the Exam Boards is released, we will tell your child which pieces of work will count towards their grade. This will happen before the grade is submitted to the exam board; however, teachers are NOT permitted to share the grade with your child. The deadline for exam board submission is 18th June 2021, as such due to the requirement for thorough marking and moderation; no work will be accepted after Friday 11th June 2021.

Teachers will mark any work already submitted as part of coursework (NEA) completed by your child and it will contribute to their overall grade, whether or not it has been completed. It is, therefore, important that your child works hard to continue with their coursework as best they can.

We know that some of you may be worried that not all the content for a particular subject has been covered. The DFE have not set any requirements about the minimum amount of content that should be taught or assessed, but have asked the Principal to confirm that your child has been taught enough content so that they can progress to the next stage of education. We want your child to make the best choices about their next steps and it would not be helpful if they started studying a subject at a higher level that they might find too difficult.

### **When you will get your results:**

We are working towards your child receiving their GCSEs results on 12 August. Results for vocational or technical qualifications linked to moving on to further or higher education, should also be issued to students either on 12 August.

I must stress how important the next ten weeks are in bringing together strong evidence that truly represents the abilities of your child. I ask that you discuss with your child the importance of engaging fully during this time. Attendance at school from 8th March will be essential. The weeks up to Easter will be spent completing the Year 11 course, coupled with detailed revision leading to evidence gathering by each teacher for each child in each of their subjects. We are planning a number of in class assessments, which will be useful in confirming each child's grades. These will take place after the Easter holidays and once we have confirmed the dates we will share them with you and your children.



Should your child be affected by COVID related issues, please rest assured that the school is allowed to use work from remote learning, and therefore your child will be expected to continue remote learning if they are unable to attend school for any reason.

All schools in the Trust are collaborating to consider the best approach to maximise the outcomes for each child in our care, but until we receive clarity and detail from exam boards, we cannot confirm the exact details. As soon as we are able to clearly map out the weeks ahead, we will do so, including sharing with you a leaving date for Year 11 as soon as we have guidance on this.

Our absolute priority is to ensure that your children are able to proceed to their chosen college, apprenticeship or job. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Robins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Emma Robins**  
Principal | Graham School