

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear parents / carers.

## **Re: Exam information**

This letter will provide you with information about the processes that will be in place with regards to the collation of evidence and the awarding of exam grades this year.

In school we are currently providing class teachers with time with their Year 11 core teachers to allow them to collate any necessary further evidence which will allow us to award them their grade.

For students that are sitting functional skills, we have been advised that these exams will still go ahead. Your child will be entered for the exams ticked below:

The dates for these exams are:

**Maths Level 1 - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 9am** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maths Level 2 - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 9am** \_\_\_\_\_

**English Level 1 reading - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 9am** \_\_\_\_\_

**English level 1 writing - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1pm.** \_\_\_\_\_

GCSEs – What you need to know:

### **What's happening?**

- Exams are cancelled this summer for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels, as well as some VTQs
- Instead of exams, pupils will receive grades based on assessments by their teachers
- Teacher-assessed grades will be sent to the exam board to be processed

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### **How will teachers make judgements on grades?**

- › They'll use a range of evidence of pupils' work, like coursework, practice papers and classwork, to inform their decisions
- › Teachers will let pupils know what evidence they'll use before submitting grades to the exam board. This is so pupils can confirm it's their own work, and let teachers know of any mitigating circumstances that might have affected it
- › Teachers will only assess pupils based on what they've been taught

## How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- › Our school will have an internal quality assurance process in place that'll take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure teachers' judgements aren't too harsh or lenient
- › Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They'll check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades, and they might also virtually visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
- › We'll submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we've followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process

## When will we get our results?

- › **GCSE pupils:** Thursday 12 August

## Can we still appeal?

- › Yes, all pupils will have the right to appeal their grade. If you wish to appeal your child's grade in the first instance you should email [OakwoodAcademySeniorLeadershipTeam@oakwoodacademy.co.uk](mailto:OakwoodAcademySeniorLeadershipTeam@oakwoodacademy.co.uk) detailing your reason for appeal.
- › If you appeal, we'll carry out a review to make sure we've followed all processes correctly and that we haven't made an error in your grade
- › If we do find an error, we'll submit your revised grade to the exam board. If the board is satisfied, it'll issue a revised grade
- › If we don't believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We'll share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade, and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade we set isn't reasonable, they'll provide an alternative grade

➤ If you disagree with the school's or the exam board's decision, you can refer the issue to Ofqual's Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS). The exam board will have the final say unless the EPRS finds that it has made an error

Deadlines **10th Aug** - **3rd Sept** - Students requests centre review

If unhappy with response, you have until the **17th September** to request that the appeal is taken to the exam board.

**It is important to remember that your grade can go down, up or stay the same through wither stage of the process.**

### **Further Information:**

All information regarding exam can be found on the school website, under the tab **Exams 2021**

### **Sources**

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on the following sources. All information is correct as of 1 April 2021.

- [Awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK - DfE
- [Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK - Ofqual and DfE
- [Decisions on alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021](#), GOV.UK - Ofqual and DfE
- [Guidance on the determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for summer 2021](#), jcq.org.uk- JCQ