

## Year 11 – FAQs

### How will grades be awarded this year?

On 4 January 2021, the Government announced that it was no longer fair for the Summer 2021 examination series for GCSE, A/AS Level, Project Qualifications and Advanced Extension Award in maths to go ahead due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Instead, exam boards will ask exam centres to generate, for each subject, teacher assessed grades for their students. These grades should be based on a range of evidence completed as part of the course, including evidence produced in the coming months, which demonstrates the student's performance on the subject content they have been taught.

### So is the grade just down to the individual teacher?

No. Teachers will be receive extensive support and all grades will undergo a thorough process of moderation. This will include: guidance supplied by the exam boards; intra-departmental moderation (meaning every grade will be signed off by at least two members of staff); collaboration with external providers and other schools; and comparison to national benchmarks.

This process will begin with clearly defined pieces of evidence used for each student in each qualification.

### What evidence will be used?

This will be individual to each qualification. Students will receive a breakdown of what will be used; however, it will be made from the below.

1. Historic record of progress from throughout the course  
Every term since year 9, staff have made a holistic, professional judgement on the progress of their students; these were reported home.  
While these were framed as an end course prediction, they are arrived at by judging the level of performance on recent material and projecting the level across the course.
2. Non-exam assessment work  
Where applicable, a student's portfolio for the course can be used, even if this has not been fully completed.
3. Prior tasks that reflect the qualification specification and use exam board mark schemes  
For examined qualifications, students completed a mock exam in November 2020.  
Additionally departments may nominate other specific assessments that followed the same format of exam board materials.
4. Student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board  
Exam boards will supply, as part of their package of support, sets of questions, papers and assessment materials.  
Students will sit an assessment based on these materials in our Summer assessment window: 10<sup>th</sup> May – 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### What if I do really badly in the upcoming assessments? Will I have any chance of a better grade?

The upcoming assessments are only one strand of evidence that will be used. The result will be balanced against the weight of historic progress and performance in previous nominated assessments

### What if I have done really badly in my mocks? Will I have any chance of a better grade?

Yes. If you don't believe historic evidence through the course reflects your potential, the upcoming assessments are an opportunity to provide evidence of your ability.

### **Will there be Easter revision classes/afterschool sessions?**

No, that is not needed. This process is not about cramming for an exam. Your teachers already have a wealth of evidence for you and will carefully plan out the lessons after Easter to make sure you are 100% prepared.

### **When will results come out?**

Results will be published on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August

### **What can I do if I am not happy?**

If you do not think the results are accurate, there will be a process of appeal. We will detail this closer to the time.

### **Can we talk to the teacher in the meantime?**

Teachers will be able to discuss which evidence they are using to inform their judgement with students, including marked or graded pieces of work. However, we are not allowed to disclose their final submitted grade we give to the exam board. Students should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Students must not pressure teachers to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.