

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **OFQUAL CONSULTATION ON QUALIFICATIONS TO BE AWARDED IN SUMMER 2021**

As you are already aware, the government announced that students will not be sitting their examinations as planned in Summer 2021. Ofqual has launched a public consultation regarding the proposal of how to award grades. Within this letter you will find a link to this proposal as well as the measures that we will be putting into place as a school.

#### **Consultation**

As a result of the result of the recent school closures, Ofqual and the Department for Education have decided to gather the views of students who were due to take their exams this year, as well as their parents / carers, teachers, school and college leaders – they have also requested the input of further and higher education providers and employers.

Ultimately, students undertaking their GCSE programme of study, require GCSE grades to support their transition onto the next stage of their education or training, or into employment. Grades must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do, and they must be widely understood and respected. In place of exams in Summer 2021, Ofqual propose that a student's grade in a subject will be based on their teacher's assessment of the standard at which they are performing. Please find below a link to this proposal for your information:

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

**Both parents and students can respond to the proposal using the link below:**

[Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/119170625)

As a school, we will be responding to the guidance that has been provided. Our teachers will be using a range of methods to gather the necessary evidence to support the grading of students. It is important that you are aware of these methods and that you communicate these with your son/daughter – please see below:

- **Attendance and participation in online lessons.**
- **Progress in each subject taking into consideration classwork, homework and assignments completed since July 2019, therefore, spanning the whole course.**
- **Submission of further assessments – teachers will signpost all assessments that will contribute to final GCSE grades; this includes the completion of any coursework tasks.**
- **All students will begin a two-week period of Mock examinations as soon as they return to school; of course, the date is yet to be finalised. We will inform students and contact you as soon as we have definitive arrangements.**
- **All teachers will submit a further estimated grade for students following the completion and moderation of the Mock examinations.**

You will be aware that all Year 11 students were recently provided with their Predicted grades; these will be used to support any College / Sixth form applications. In the event that your son/daughter has any queries they would like to raise regarding these, can I request that you or they contact me directly using the email address below and **do not email subject teachers directly.**

The Year 11 team have spent the last two weeks contacting parents and students in relation to their College / Sixth Form applications; in the event that you require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sears', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mr D Sears**  
**Assistant Principal – Year 11**

Email: [dsears@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:dsears@elatschools.co.uk)