



26 February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

We have now had more clarification from the government about the plans for how students' grades will be awarded in the summer. Students will be given a Centre Assessed Grade which will be generated by their subject teacher and then moderated and checked by both middle and senior leaders across the Empower Learning Academy Trust. These grades will be calculated based on all classwork, tests and coursework completed so far in their GCSE course as well as a final internal assessment that will be based on material provided by exam boards and marked by their teachers. These examinations will take place in the Summer Term with dates to be finalised as soon as exam boards release further guidance and materials. We are keen to stress that these assessments will be based **only** on what students have covered in lessons in year 10 and so far this year – they will not contain any content that students have not learned in lesson time. The government have given a final deadline of 18th June for Centre Assessed Grades to be submitted.

Due to this announcement, we no longer believe that it is fair to subject students to a period of mock examinations as soon as they return to school as well as another set of exams only a few weeks later and so these mock exams have now been cancelled. We want to give students the best possible opportunity to try their best and show all that they have learned and can remember and so we believe that their time will be more usefully spent with their teachers revising content covered during lockdown and preparing for their final assessments. We appreciate that many students will have spent a lot of time preparing for these exams and we want to take this opportunity to reassure them that this time will not have been wasted as it will all contribute towards their assessments. We hope that removing this set of exams will help students to feel less stressed about topics they have learned during lockdown which they may not yet be 100% confident with.

We hope that we will be able to give students the best of both worlds when we come to calculating their final grade. For those that have been working hard and achieving good results throughout the course, these results will be taken into consideration when calculating their final grade. For those who have found it more difficult to learn during the lockdown period, teachers will be spending plenty of lesson time when we return revising material with students and their grade in the final assessment will then have a larger weighting in the final grade calculation. We believe that it is important that every student has the best chance of success, regardless of how easy or difficult they have found it to learn during this exceptionally challenging period.



I will write to you again as soon as the dates for the summer assessments have been finalised but please feel free to contact Mr Sears, the Assistant Principal in charge of year 11 (dsears@elatschools.co.uk) in the meanwhile with any questions or concerns you may have.

W Thompson.

Mr W Thompson
Principal