



3 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you may be aware, on Thursday, 25 February 2021, the Department for Education and Ofqual released details regarding the outcome of the consultation and the arrangements for awarding GCSE and A Level grades this summer. Whilst more clarification is likely to be outlined over the coming days, we felt it important to share with you some of the key points that we know so far.

Teacher Assessed Grades will be assigned on what students have already been taught. Schools will be asked to assess students' performance only on the content that has been delivered to them by their teachers, in order to determine the grade each student should receive. Schools are being asked to use a range of evidence to inform this including: mock results; in class assessments; and the use of optional mini assessments in the summer term, which will be provided by the examination boards. Importantly for Year 11 and Year 13 students, there is still a lot of time ahead before any decisions are made so the only advice we are giving at this time is to continue working hard.

Vocational Qualifications to be assessed in a similar way to GCSEs and A Levels. For those students sitting vocational qualifications such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals/ Technical the process will be similar to GCSEs with a range of evidence being collated, which will include the non-exam assessments (coursework) within these subjects.

Key Dates

The submission deadline for the centre assessed grades is 18 June 2021 and schools are being advised to collate evidence as close to this date as possible. At present we do not have a date when our Year 11 and Year 13 students will no longer be expected to attend school, but we will inform you of this at the earliest opportunity.

The published results collection date is August 10 for Year 13 and August 12 for GCSEs.

Autumn Exam Series: as with last year, there will be the opportunity for students to sit external exams if they wish during Autumn 2021, alongside an appeals process should any student feel there has been an administrative error.

We understand and appreciate that this news will be a source of anxiety for many of you and your children, so please be reassured that we have been preparing for such an eventuality since September and feel confident that we will be able to submit grades that will be a fair representation of the hard work and progress that our students have been making so far this academic year and will continue to make upon their return from the week beginning 8 March.

The message to our exam students remains consistent; keep turning up to lessons with the attitude to learn and completing all work to the best of your ability and your efforts will be rewarded.

One final point that is emphasised in the documentation is that whilst staff can discuss openly the evidence that we have for students (e.g. mock grades, test grades etc...) we are unable to inform students or parents of the teacher assessed grade that they will be likely to submit for them.

If you, or your child have any further questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team. A summary document from Ofqual is attached.

Many thanks for your continued support during these unprecedented times. The mature and focused manner in which our students have continued to face the challenges put in front of them has been nothing short of outstanding and we look forward to welcoming them back and working with them in their final terms at Stanground Academy (a separate letter has been sent with details of the return to school plan including necessary mass testing).

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Hedges
Senior Deputy Principal

How vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded in 2021 

Qualifications most similar to GCSEs and A levels	Qualifications not similar to GCSEs or A levels	Qualifications with occupational skills or proficiency assessments
<p>e.g. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Technicals</p> <p> Taken only in schools or colleges</p> <p> Do not assess occupational skills</p>	<p>e.g. Functional skills and ESOL Skills for Life</p> <p> Taken in schools, colleges or other places</p> <p> Do not assess occupational skills</p>	<p>e.g. construction, plumbing and electrical qualifications</p> <p> Taken in schools, colleges or other places</p> <p> Assess occupational skills</p>
Your results	Your results	Your results
<p> Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement</p> <p> Various sources of evidence used</p> <p> Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels</p>	<p> Assessments should continue where possible</p> <p> May be awarded using other evidence or judgements</p> <p> Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed</p>	<p> Assessments can continue as normal where possible</p> <p> Assessments may be delayed</p> <p> Assessments can be adapted if needed</p>
<p>Visit www.gov.uk/ofqual or search 'Ofqual 2021 qualification explainer tool' for specific details (coming soon)</p>		

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Graded by teacher judgement  Not graded by an algorithm  School and college assessments can continue  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence  Non-exam assessment should continue  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<p>Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August</p> <p> If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</p> <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p>