



Kingswinford Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Letters for staff / Y11 Exam update Jan 2021

19 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 11 Summer Exams update

I would like to provide you with an update regarding the awarding of GCSE and vocational qualifications this year, based on the government's most recent guidance. There is currently a consultation on a replacement for the summer exams being undertaken, so we will not have definitive plans for the assessment methodology for some weeks. However, there are government proposals in place which we have outlined below. These proposals make it clear that there is an intent to offer end of year assessments. Our staff will continue to provide high quality Remote Education for Year 11 students to minimise the impact of this period of lockdown and ensure students are fully prepared for any assessments that may be required as a result of the consultation and government's proposals.

The Prime Minister announced on Monday 4th January that "exams will not go ahead as normal" this summer. On 17th January 2021, Ofqual's and the Department for Education's joint consultations on awarding in summer 2021 was published. These are the recommendations in the consultations on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021:

Summary of the proposals

- Grades should be based on teacher assessments
- Grades awarded should reflect the standard at which pupils are performing
- Final teacher assessment will be made towards the end of the year, similar to when exams would have been sat
- A breadth of evidence should inform teacher's judgements.
- Exam boards should provide a set of assessment papers to support assessment
- Exam boards should support internal quality assurance that takes place within schools.
- Exam boards will undertake checks to make sure schools' approaches are appropriate.
- Pupils should be able to appeal if they think their grade does not reflect the evidence of their performance. In the first instance this would be to the school.

Proposed timeline for awarding:

- Students would continue with their education during this academic year
- Assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June



- Teachers submit grades to the exam boards by mid-June
- External quality assurance by the exam boards ongoing throughout June
- Results issued to students once quality assurance process is complete, probably early July
- Student appeals could be submitted immediately following the issue of results and would first be considered by schools and colleges

Alternative arrangements for the award of vocational qualifications in 2021:

Summary of the proposals:

- Written exams for Vocational and Technical qualifications that are taken instead of, or alongside, GCSEs, AS and A levels should not take place.
- Internal assessment should continue to go ahead remotely, where relevant, for all learners where possible.

It is therefore of utmost importance that Year 11 students continue to engage in remote learning, to prepare themselves for future assessments that will help to shape their grades. For the full details of the proposals and for additional information, please visit our [Student and Parent Remote Learning Website](#)

Yours faithfully



Mr T Macdonald
Headteacher