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Dear Year 11 Parent or Carer

We are writing to you to explain what we can about how your Year 11 child's Centre Assessment Grades will be calculated. We are, of course, bound by the Government's guidelines about this and Ofqual's letter for students explaining their guidelines has already been shared with you. Please ensure you have read it.

How grades are to be calculated for cancelled GCSE and BTEC examinations:

By moderated teacher assessment. Staff in each subject will work together to place students in a grade for each of their subjects. For each student, teachers will consider what grade would be the most plausible if they were actually going to take the exam in the summer. Students in each grade will then be ranked. This will generate a rank order of students in each subject so that if the gradings need to be adjusted, then it is clear which students would be affected, in either direction. This is a difficult process and relies on teachers being fair and reasonable with our own students but also understanding the same process is being applied everywhere else. Finally, we will as a school consider whether the cohort of students and their grades taken together would be what we would have expected on results day, and whether this accurately resembles the national picture. Above all, we will ask ourselves, does it look fair?

We will complete this process by drawing on all the information we have about your child's performance: mock exams, coursework, in-class assessments, prior performance data. We will then submit this ranking to the exam boards, and they will adjudicate your child's results using statistical tools so that there are equal outcomes for our students compared to previous years. This process is reliant on the profession working together in a consistent, fair and ethical way. Your children, and others affected by this, deserve nothing less.

Please note: **we may not discuss your child's grade, ranking, or details of our process with you. Please do not ask any teaching staff to do so.** The advice from Ofqual which we must follow specifically states: *"Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you."*

Please also note that **it is possible that the grades we submit may well not be the grades eventually awarded.** Ofqual is proposing to standardise grades by looking at the historical outcomes for each centre, the prior attainment (key stage 2) of this year's cohort and those in previous years within each school, and the expected national grade distribution for the subject. This approach will place weight on statistical expectations that could determine the most likely distribution of grades for each centre (based on the criteria above); they will then use the rank order to assign grades to individual students in line with that grade distribution. This means that final calculated grades may *"often differ from those submitted"*, but ensure a more consistent standard applied across schools which is *"more likely to be fair"*.

Submission of additional work:

Guidance from the Department for Education says that there can be no expectation that Year 11 work set after Friday 20 March will be completed. The Ofqual guidance published on 3 April makes it clear that

there is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. We have advised our teachers that they should not be seeking any further work from students at this point to support centre assessment grades. Not all students will be able to respond; some will be ill whilst others will be living under more difficult circumstances at home.

In some subjects students will have completed, or nearly completed, non-exam assessment (coursework). This will be helpful in deciding each student's grade and rank order. **Schools and colleges do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of grading.** However, while work undertaken by students after 20 March may not contribute to their assessed grade, it is perfectly reasonable for schools and colleges to suggest that Year 11 students should be finishing their courses where possible, particularly where they plan to pursue the subject after 16.

Re-sit opportunities:

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

Next steps for students applying to Tallis Post-16:

To further support your child's learning in advance of starting new courses in September either with us or elsewhere, we have put together further reading and research packs for different subjects, which can be found at <https://www.tallispost16.com/reading--research-lists.html>

We have since added to this with additional work packs from PiXL. These packs are activities with links to different sites online that aid students in completing supported activities in subjects they are interested in studying further. Whether your child is returning to us or moving on, these packs are a useful start to their next steps. However, if your child is intending to return to Tallis Post 16 we would like students to complete these for the subjects they are interested in studying, alongside the further reading and research already set on the site. When your child attends enrolment in the late summer, they should bring these packs of work with them.

EtonX self-study course:

In order to further support your Year 11 child's learning at this time, the school has registered for an EtonX Future Skills Programme in Writing Skills. The course provides 7-10 hours of self-study content and is fronted by an Eton teacher; the skills learned are generic and useful for all students preparing for higher education or the workplace. Please see the details below of how your child can access their course:

Year 11 access code: 7XFKQ9HP

How to sign up to your EtonX course:

1. Visit the EtonX website and click [Sign up](#).
2. Choose **Sign up with Access Code**.
3. Enter your Access Code.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions. Please sign up with your **school email address**.
5. Congratulations! You can now get started on your course.

Once you have created your account, you can always log in at <https://learn.etonx.com/login> to finish your registration and access your course. If you face any issues during sign up or have any questions, please contact etonxoffer@etoncollege.org.uk.

We apologise for the length of this letter, but we hope you will find it informative and are reassured that, as always, we are trying our very best to do the right thing by our Year 11 students.

Yours Sincerely



Carolyn Roberts
Head



Jon Curtis Brignell
Deputy Head: Curriculum