

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are all no doubt aware we are waiting to find out the details of how GCSE grades will be awarded. What we do know is that this will in some way involve teachers' recommendations as part of the calculation. At this point we also understand that pupils will have a right to appeal the grade they are awarded, and if still not happy they will have the chance to sit an actual exam. When that exam might be is slightly vague at the moment, but it seems unlikely that could happen before September. We also suspect this process could well involve some sort of random sampling of pupils' work. We will keep you up to date with information as we receive it.

**Please do not contact any teacher asking about your child's grade. I will be instructing all staff to ignore any such query.**

Clearly, this could affect a pupil's destination post 16, as entry to almost all courses does depend upon reaching a minimum entry requirement. Until we know exactly what the whole process will involve, I think it would be a mistake for anyone to completely stop working, in case they need to sit an exam in the future. My recommendation is that all Year 11 pupils go to what I would call 'tick over' mode; on a regular basis look at the work they have done, to keep it in their memory. Ideally I would suggest to them that they engage in an organised and self regulated low level work plan, which would spend a small amount of time on each of their subjects each week. They should certainly not carry on working anywhere near to full pace.

Please also be aware that, at some point and as soon as possible, we will organise all the usual end of year celebrations. This year group have been brilliant since they started and we will make sure they have all the opportunity to finish with a flourish that can be provided.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Gibbs