



06/01/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now heard from Gavin Williamson that the government's preferred solution for year 11 and 13 is to replace exams with Teacher Assessed Grades. Whilst in the Commons he stated that the government had "learned lessons" on exams after last year's fiasco, during which the arrangements "did not deliver what they needed" with the impact felt "painfully by students and their parents".

"Although exams are the fairest way we have of accessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means it is not possible to have these exams this year. I can confirm that GCSEs, A levels and AS level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.

"The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual the exam boards and teaching representative organisations, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these awarded fairly and consistently across the country."

Whilst this statement does not tell us exactly what will be needed, there will be moderation of students work involved. It is critical that students in years 11 and 13 continue to study, continue to complete the work they are set and keep in touch with us. I would not be surprised if students were set work by exam boards that we marked and was then externally sampled and moderated.

We will continue to set work for them, and this **WILL** form part of the formulation of any grades that will be submitted.

It is critical that students keep up with their superb efforts as at the very minimum this will be reflected in references and testimonials that the school would provide to their next destination.

Yours sincerely

Damian Belshaw
Head of School