

Fowey River Academy

Windmill - Fowey - Cornwall - PL231HE

Interim Headteacher: Ben Eddy - B Ed (Hons)

10 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with the latest updates regarding your child's GCSE exams. It was announced on Thursday 25th February the details of how grades will be awarded. Since then we have been working as an Academy to ensure the process of issuing grades is fair and robust.

The Government's priority is now to ensure that our Year 11 students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

It is extremely important to note that our Year 11 students will **not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances**, and the Government has announced that these exam results will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. This is good news as GCSEs are a culmination of many years of hard work by our students.

Therefore, I would like to explain the process. It is imperative that the grades given by teachers are not influenced or biased by discussion with parents or any outside influence. There will be a full appeals process in place when final grades are released.

Firstly, as a school, we have a range of data showing each student's progress, including topic tests, mock exams and classwork completed both in school and during lockdowns. It is really important to know that students are expected to remain in school learning until the 11th June 2021. **All work completed until this date will form part of their final GCSE grade.** Each week between now and June 11th 2021 students will be graded on a task completed that week. This grade will also form part of the decision process of what grade each student is working at. These grades are final and cannot be changed. It helps to build a picture of the grade each student is consistently working at, allowing the final grade to be an honest reflection of each child's learning. The teacher can share this weekly grade for each piece of work with the student. The class teacher will then use the data, including their mark book for work completed between now and the 11th June, along with grade descriptors from the exam boards to give a final GCSE grade. The final "Working At Grade" cannot be shared with students and parents until results day, unless there is a change to the rules over exams set out by OFQUAL.

The results will then be given out on the 12th August 2021, and we will be in contact before that date to finalise the arrangements for the collection of results. If you are unable to collect the results on that date, you can request to have the results posted to you by writing to our exams office to request this.

If students feel their calculated grade does not reflect their performance, they will have the opportunity to appeal their grade, and this appeals process will be published by the Government in due course. There may also be an opportunity to sit an exam in the autumn term.

Again I would like to remind you it is imperative that students continue with their studies for all subjects as any work completed will form part of their final grade.

I hope this alleviates some of your worries and I am confident that all Year 11 students will achieve their deserved grades. If you have any further questions, please contact me via email at pmckinniss@fracademy.org.

Kind regards

Peter McKinniss
Senior Assistant Principal