

13th July 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

GCSE Public Examinations Summer 2021

We are writing to inform you of the arrangements for the GCSE results this summer. As we have now received confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) in respect of the process to be adopted for the Summer 2021 GCSE Public Examinations, we would like to ensure that you fully understand how the GCSE grades will be determined, how the GCSE results will be communicated quickly and effectively, and what the appeals process will be.

- Please see attached the Summer 2021 School Examinations Policy
- Please see attached the Summer 2021 JCQ Guidance for students, parents and guardians: GCSEs and AS/A Levels in England Summer 2021

The overall grade per GCSE subject studied will be based on every piece of work the students have produced during their GCSE course of study in Years 10/11 which:

- Shows students' performance on the content taught.
- Reflects specification, format and marking of the examinations board.
- Includes (but not limited to) classwork, homework, in-school tests/assessments, remote learning work, NEAs (even unfinished) when applicable
- Is the students' own work. Please note that:
- Not one single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another.
- Grades will not take into account the students' potential, such as target grades, prediction grades or what the students would have been able to achieve if the examinations had taken place.
- Grades will be based on a wide range of evidence and will represent the overall students' performance on the aspects of the course that have been taught.
- Grades will not be determined by an average numerical calculation.
- Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine the grades and this will be done objectively. For example, if you achieved grades 6 and 7 in Year 10 and then consistently performed at grade 8 in Year 11, you should be awarded a grade 8 overall.
- Where available we will use current exam board markers who are on the school's staff body to carry out marking standardisation processes and/or outsource marking to external approved marking organisations.
- Students with agreed Access Arrangements and/or mitigating circumstances will receive in due course a letter from the school confirming what individual and appropriate reasonable adjustments have been taken into account when determining the grades.
- It will be considered as malpractice if students or any individuals acting on behalf of a student such as parents/carers attempt to:
- influence the teachers' judgements about their grades.
- gain unfair advantage by submitting for example fabricated evidence or plagiarised work.
- find out their final grades prior to results day. We will retain clear and reliable records of any inappropriate attempt to influence any individual in school involved in determining the grades and the relevant awarding examinations boards will be notified.

How will the grades be communicated? Please see attached the parents results day letter that was emailed to you on 24th June 2021.

We will inform you in the autumn term how you will receive your official examinations certificates.

Actions following results collection

The senior leadership team as well as the examinations officer will be available to provide in person or by phone support and advice.

Please phone the school on 0121 475 3881 where we will take your names, phone numbers and reasons for wanting to talk to us. We will get back to you as soon as possible but please note that the phone calls deemed most urgent will be dealt with first.

Appeals process Students will not be able to challenge their individual grades as Ofqual and the DfE do not believe there is any person better placed than teachers to determine teachers assessed grades. Although everyone will be working hard to make sure that the grades issued are correct, there will be an appeals process as a safety net to fix any genuine errors that were not identified prior results day. If students believe that an error has been made, then students will need to submit their appeal (using their Bournville school email address) to the school via a.baker-smith@bournville.fmat.co.uk on 12 August and no later than Friday the 13th of August 2021.

Please see below the different stages of the appeals process. It is important to remember that the grade can go up, down or stay the same through either stage of the process.

1. Stage 1 is referred to as "centre review" a. Student thinks the school has made an administrative error in submitting the grade. b. Student thinks there has been a procedural error (in other words, the school did not comply with its Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take into account access arrangements and/or mitigating circumstances).

2. Stage 2 is referred to as "Appeal to the awarding organisation" (submitted by the school to the relevant examinations board on behalf of students) a. Student still thinks there has been a procedural error. Student thinks the examinations boards made an administrative error. c. Student considers the grade awarded was an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence. An exercise of judgement will not be judged unreasonable simply because a student considers that an alternative grade should have been awarded even if the student puts forward supporting evidence. There may be a difference in opinion without there being an unreasonable exercise of judgement. The reviewer (examinations board) will not remark individual assessments to make fine judgement but will take a holistic approach based on the overall evidence the school will provide. Subject teachers and Heads of department will not reply to any queries regarding the summer 2021 grades and examination process, so we would ask you not to contact them on the matter at any times.

We understand how unsettling these past few months have been and how intense the coming weeks will be. We would like to reassure you that students will receive the individual support needed.

Yours faithfully,



Miss M Green
Head of Academy