



18 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Students

Year 11, 12 and 13 Awarding Qualification Grades in Summer 2021

As you may have seen, Ofqual and the Department for Education have released their joint consultations on arrangements for GCSE, A Level and VTQ qualifications, including Core Maths. It is very likely news organisations may start to report headlines about qualifications arrangements based on factors that are still under consultation, and it is important any online speculation with treated with due caution.

We will carefully consider the consultations and complete an organisational response, but the consultations are also open to students, parents and carers. The GCSE and A Level consultation is [here](#) and the VTQ consultation is [here](#). The deadline for responses is **Friday 29 January at 23:45**. The form for completing the GCSE and A Level consultation is [here](#) and the VTQ consultation form is [here](#).

We are unlikely to be able to communicate final arrangements until the consultation has closed and decisions confirmed which is unlikely to be much before the end of this half term. As soon as we have more clarity, we will ensure you are fully informed of all the arrangements.

From our initial reading of the consultation, GCSE, A Level and VTQ approaches are likely to be similar this year. The process is expected to be that teachers' are to make an assessment, using a breadth of objective evidence, of the standard at which the student is performing which is credible, meaningful, fair, valid and consistent. It is possible this evidence will include some exam board provided papers, completed under teacher supervision, chosen from a 'menu' which may allow for a range of topics and would be completed in a specific time window.

Non examination assessments (NEAs) and BTEC internal assessments are to continue as planned.

For now, it is vital that all students with qualifications due in the summer continue with their studies and attend all their remote learning, as the assessment period proposed is to be May and June. Students should continue to prepare as though examinations were taking place, teachers will continue to assess, give feedback and develop students appropriately as the situation develops.

Yours faithfully

Mr B Barker
Assistant Headteacher