

Our ref: CBE/DKP

13 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you today with an update to our Year 11 grading strategy. Teachers and students have been busy collecting and providing evidence to support the grading process.

Since we launched our initial grading approach (see Mr Jenkins' video), Ofqual has published a range of additional requirements which we have incorporated into our existing strategy. Ofqual has stipulated that all information used for the grading process must be based on a form of assessment, must be supported by tangible evidence and cannot be drawn from prediction, however well moderated. We are required to assess a student's performance at the point of grading, not their potential if exams had not been cancelled. Therefore, we will only be able to use the grade reported to you in Autumn as an internal reference point.

Furthermore, Ofqual expects that we allocate a higher significance to more recent evidence than more historic one. Also, evidence collected under high control (i.e. in exam-like, controlled conditions) must play a more prominent role than evidence completed not in the classroom, not under teacher supervision.

All evidence used in the grading process must be authenticated; this means that we will ask students next week to sign a declaration stating all work submitted has been their own and has been completed without assistance. Students will be familiar with such a form when submitting coursework. This declaration allows us to consider written evidence submitted during lockdown, however this work would need to be considered as done under medium to low control (provided this declaration has been signed).

Broadly, all departments are considering evidence as follows:

1. April Mock exams
2. In-class assessments since 8 March 2021
3. November Mock exams
4. Written submissions during lockdown
5. (Autumn reports; used only internally)

Depending on the nature of the subject and assessment structure, approaches and types of evidence will vary from subject to subject, i.e. Art will assess differently to English, PE will assess differently to maths, etc. Teachers will consider your son/daughter's evidence holistically and not as a simple calculation.

During the remaining weeks, your son/daughter's subject teachers are sharing their subject's approach, which evidence has been used and are able to share interim grades and results. Teachers will endeavour to share interim results discreetly where possible. Students are able to point out errors, i.e. where inadvertently an incorrect result has been noted down, but are not able to challenge grades, types of evidence selected, etc. Any such attempts will need to be recorded as malpractice and undue influence. We cannot assure you enough that all our teachers are working incredibly hard to assess our students as fairly, objectively and consistently as possible, while adhering to Ofqual stringent requirements. Every student's grade will be reviewed and moderated by multiple teachers before being signed off by the subject's curriculum leader and Mr Jenkins as Head of Centre.

We are not allowed to share the final grade which will be submitted to exam boards on 18 of June 2021. Exam boards will then externally moderate the grades which could result in potential changes before results are officially awarded on Thursday 12 August 2021.

You will find our Centre Policy for this year's grading, JCQ's guidance for parents and students and Ofqual guide for parents and students on our website:

<https://www.aldworth.hants.sch.uk/news-and-events/year-11-grading-summer-2021>

We hope you will find these documents useful. If you have queries which could not be answered in any of these documents, please email me (Claudia.beattie@aldworth.hants.sch.uk).

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely

Claudia Beattie

Mrs Claudia Beattie
Executive Deputy Headteacher