



Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 and Year 13,

Please find outlined below the information we are currently able to share regarding the grading process for GCSE and A Level this summer.

This information should be read alongside the Loom presentation by Mr Witham and Mr Pettifer, the link for which accompanies this letter. The Loom presentation was made at the end of last week, before the students returned to school.

Qualifications Grading – Summer 2021

This guidance applies for GCSE and A Level qualifications. Similar guidance for vocational qualifications such as BTECs is expected soon.

How will the grades be awarded for qualifications I am due to receive this summer, given that examinations are not going ahead?

You will be awarded grades based on what the government are calling “teacher assessed grades”.

What is a teacher assessed grade?

We have been asked as a school to “submit a grade for each student for each qualification based on an assessment of how they are performing”.

How will these grades be decided?

The school may use a range of evidence from (not an exhaustive list): mock examinations, class tests, homework assignments, coursework, additional assessments, etc. The more recent the data, the more relevant the grade will be. At Chosen Hill, we have just concluded the Year 13 Mock programme and in Year 11 the Core Mock examinations begin on 22nd March, 2021.

There will be an additional assessment window from 19th April to 21st May. This will be an opportunity for students to further demonstrate the grade they are working at in their subjects through a series of in-class assessments. A schedule will be made available for these nearer the time. Although they are not formal exams, these assessments will take place in examination conditions. These assessments will provide evidence to corroborate the judgements teachers make; they will not be the sole piece of evidence on which grades are based.

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What will these assessments involve?

Schools are being asked to only assess, and base grading on, what students have been taught. The assessments will be fewer than would have been sat had the examinations gone ahead and may be shorter.

The examination boards are currently producing materials that can be used by schools and our Heads of Faculty will review and adapt these materials as appropriate to best suit our students, or they may use materials they already have.

Will I get study leave during these assessments?

No, but during lessons in school you will be preparing for upcoming assessments and getting help and advice from your teachers. The best place for you to be during this time is in school.

What will I be told about these assessments before I sit them?

All Year 11 students have been sent revision checklists for the Core Mocks. They will only be assessed on topics on the checklist.

We will inform students of the topic areas that will be included in the assessment window (19th April -21st May) in due course, to focus revision and give students the best possible chance of achieving their potential.

We will produce a calendar of when the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) tasks for each subject at GCSE and A Level will be, and this will be distributed to students and parents.

How can I best prepare for these assessments?

You should continue as normal. Teachers will finish delivering content in the coming weeks and routine assessments will continue to take place in lessons primarily for the purpose of helping you to practice your techniques and gain feedback from your teachers so you can do your very best in these assessments. However, remember, a range of evidence will be used to decide upon the teacher assessed grades so it is important that you prepare well.

How will my teachers be helping me during this period?

Subject teachers will devote lesson time specifically to examination technique and revision of key content in order to help you prepare effectively. They will also be advising you to review your feedback from assessments already completed as this will help you prepare for any upcoming assessments.

I am studying for a Vocational qualification, such as a BTEC: how will my teacher assessed grades be decided?

We have been advised (although we are awaiting more detailed/confirmed guidance) that the process will be like that for GCSEs and A Levels in that if your teachers feel that additional assessments are needed to decide on teacher assessed grades, they will work with you to

prepare you for these and you will sit them during the period already outlined. Teachers will then decide on teacher assessed grades taking into account evidence as for other qualifications including work/grades you already have for units already completed.

What is happening with coursework/non-examined assessment this year?

Coursework and all non-examined assessments are not being moderated by the examination boards this year. However, teachers can use evidence from fully/partially completed coursework and non-examined assessment in determining teacher assessed grades.

How will my Predicted grades on my reports and my UCAS predictions (Year 13 only) factor into my teacher assessed grades?

Predicted grades are an indication of a teacher's view of how a student may perform in an examination; this view is based on work completed. Therefore, in normal years a predicted grade may indicate a possible final grade. However, we must ensure that we use evidence that is based on actual attainment data to calculate the teacher assessed grades. There will be no element of speculation: we have been specifically instructed to base teacher assessed grades on the work a student has completed not on how we think they may have performed if an examination(s) had taken place.

When do grades have to be submitted?

We have to submit all grades as a school by Friday 18th June 2021; therefore, all work done before this date may affect the teacher assessed grade awarded.

Will anyone be checking these grades before they are submitted?

Yes. We will carry out a rigorous moderation and checking process of all grades before they are submitted; this will be conducted by the Senior Leadership Team who will ensure grades have been internally moderated and the examinations team who will check all grades prior to data entry.

How will these grades be "checked" by the Examination boards?

A quality assurance process will be carried out by examination boards by carrying out "detailed checks of a sample of Centres, reviewing the evidence for one or more subjects". (Ofqual draft guidance, February 2021).

Will I be told my teacher assessed grades?

No; the grades are based on our assessment but are awarded by the examination boards following verification of our processes. We will not, therefore, be able to share grades directly with students until they are published by the examination boards (dates as below).

When will results be published?

Results for Level 3 (A Levels & BTECs) will be published on **Tuesday 10th of August**. GCSE and other Level 2 qualification (BTEC, Cambridge Nationals, etc.) results will be published on **Thursday 12th of August**.

More details about how you will collect or receive your results will be confirmed in due course.

Will I be able to appeal my results?

Yes. The appeals process will be confirmed in the final guidance from the exams board and we will share this with you. The draft guidance does have a section in it about appeals but there is still further detail promised.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

If you have questions about the grading process and you are in Year 11, please contact Mr Witham, Assistant Headteacher via email (ww@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk) directly and he will respond to enquiries. If you are in Year 13, please contact Mrs Chodera, Assistant Headteacher – Director of Sixth Form via email (kch@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk), and she will respond to your enquiries.

Yours faithfully,



Mr W. Witham
Assistant Headteacher
Student Progress and Achievement



Mrs K. Chodera
Assistant Headteacher
Director of Sixth Form