



Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Murcott

30th March 2021

Dear Parent, Carer

Awarding Grades – Summer 2021

As I am sure you are aware, external GCSE examinations have been cancelled by the government for this summer. These examinations are to be replaced by Teacher Assessed Grades for all students in all qualifications.

This letter and accompanying pack (distributed to students and found on the Academy Website under ‘important information for parents’) are designed to ensure you are fully aware of the evidence that will be used to calculate these grades and ensure no student at Willenhall E-ACT Academy is disadvantaged in their future, as a result of the pandemic, and subsequent school closures and examination cancellations.

The pack contains an assessment timetable, topic sheets describing the content of assessments and revision/study advice to support preparation.

In order to calculate grades, students need to be able to demonstrate their highest quality learning, so the majority of the evidence used will be collected in the weeks following the Easter break, as this gives them time to prepare fully.

We do not feel it would be fair to ask our students to sit full exam papers as they have missed large chunks of education over the course of their GCSE studies. Instead, students will be assessed in class, following the timetable included in the pack on the topics identified for each qualification. It is only fair that we share the topics to be assessed in order to support students in their preparation. We have removed topics from qualifications that students have not had the opportunity to learn well as a result of the pandemic.

In order to ensure fairness, we will also use the breadth of other evidence collected throughout their GCSE studies for any students who have to isolate during this assessment period to support their grade calculation. This evidence includes performance on mock examinations, topic tests and other marked class work.

In order to ensure fairness, all student names will be removed from assessments before marking. Marking will be checked by teachers both within the Academy and from other schools to make sure it is accurate.

I know some students and parents may be concerned about the impact of removing topics from assessments on progress to post-16 study. Can a please reassure you that the period of the school year after the assessment period is complete can be used to complete elements of the specifications that will be needed in A-Level or college courses.

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It is crucial that students attend during the assessment period (20th April – 7th May), unless they have been told to self-isolate.

If any students have worries or concerns about their assessments, they should speak to their Form Tutor in the first instance, to ensure that we can support them fully.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at diana.steele@e-act.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Murcott
Executive Headteacher Walsall Secondary Academies

