

22nd January 2021

Re: Consultation on awarding grades for GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Pupils and Students,

The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have opened a consultation on how grades should be awarded to all young people who were due to sit their GCSEs and A levels this coming summer. The consultation actually opened last Friday and closes on Friday 29th January. As a school, we have not yet finalised our position regarding the proposals contained within this consultation, but that should not matter, and it would be improper for school to influence your views.

The DfE want to hear the views of as many interested parties as possible, especially the pupils and students who have been affected by the decision to cancel the full series of examinations due to be taken, as well as their parents and carers and colleagues in the education sector.

The Secretary of State for Education has stated that both he, and the DfE, are putting their trust in teachers and their judgement to determine fair, reasonable, and evidence-based grades. However, the consultation raises some interesting possibilities as to how the DfE, Ofqual and the exam boards may support teachers in that endeavour, especially with regards to ensuring consistency between different schools and colleges.

Please use the link below to find the consultation documents on the gov.uk website:

[How GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021.](#)

At the bottom of that page, there is a link to take you to the survey. Alternatively, you can click:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

I encourage you to study the consultation and complete the survey, because the outcome of it will determine how our young people will receive their qualification grades this summer, which in turn, will shape their choice of next destination beyond Year 11 and Year 13.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. Parker

Deputy Head - Curriculum