



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. This week the Government gave an update on the situation with year 11 GCSE grades and examinations, therefore I am writing to you to keep you informed of what we know so far.

As you know in early January, Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, announced that formal GCSE examinations would not go ahead in the normal way this summer due to the pandemic. He also explained that in place of the examinations, student grades are to be based on teacher assessments.

In the last week Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) published details of a consultation on how grades should be awarded.

Here are some of the proposals:

- A student's grade in each subject will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing, using a combination of evidence that might include:
 - Exam papers sent by exam boards. These papers would be marked by teachers and taken in the same examination conditions that a formal GCSE would be taken. These are likely to be in May and early June.
 - Coursework whether completed or not, in subjects that it applies.
 - Other performance evidence such as formal tests, mock exam results and any substantial work completed by the students.
- Exam boards to quality assure teachers marking to ensure that exam papers that they have sent are marked accurately. This is likely to happen in June.
- Exam boards to quality assure the grades that teachers give to ensure that they are at the same level as the evidence suggests. This is also likely to happen in June.
- Results issued to students in early July.

The consultation will last until 29th January after which schools will have confirmed exactly how we are to allocate grades.

As such, it is crucial that students continue to apply the same amount of effort and commitment to their studies as they would had schools been open as normal. Although formal exams will not occur as normal, it seems likely that some form of exam will take place in each subject, and that these exams will form a significant part of the evidence used in allocating GCSE grades.

Once the consultation is complete, I will be in contact again to update further.

Yours Faithfully
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Assistant Headteacher

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