

29th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, the Government has cancelled public examinations for the second year in a row. Instead, schools will decide the grades that each student will receive. In deciding these grades, we will consider how each student has performed in assessments during Years 10 and 11 and will follow the guidance provided by the exam boards, the Office of Qualification and Exam Regulation (Ofqual) and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

Teachers will be working with colleagues at both Bower Park Academy and the other secondary schools in the Trust to ensure that grades are awarded fairly and without bias or discrimination. In addition to the school and Trust quality assurance processes, exam boards will also be carrying out random checks of schools to ensure grading processes are fair and based upon valid assessment evidence.

We will let students know what assessment evidence is being used to decide their grade in each subject. This will include a range of different assessments, including:-

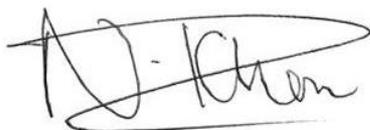
- NEA work and practical assessments.
- Substantial pieces of classwork and/or homework.
- Formal assessments that reflect the content and structure of the exam.

A timetable of the assessments that will be taking place next term will be issued and explained to students on Thursday 1st April. It is very important that students prepare as thoroughly for these assessments as they would for examinations and do the best they can as most recent assessments will give us the best indication of the level they are working at in their GCSE studies. Students will only be assessed on subject content that has been taught. It is important to emphasise here that 100% attendance next half-term will be crucial so students benefit from quality teaching and complete all their assessments.

We have produced a brief presentation that explains the process and next steps for students. You can view this on our website by clicking here: [Examinations – Bower Park Academy](#).

GCSE results day this year will be on 12th August and we will send more details about this nearer the time. As in previous years, there will also be a rigorous appeal system for any student who believes they have been awarded an incorrect or unfair grade. More details about appeals will be sent out at the end of the grading process.

Yours faithfully



N Khan
Vice Principal