



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

18th January 2021

Dear Students

I know this has been a worrying time for you since the government announced that there would be no formal exams for GCSE or A Level in the way you would have expected. I have written to your parents today providing them with the link to the consultation document jointly released by the DfE and Ofqual look at what the possible arrangements might be. The views of students and parents as well as your teachers are very important. This is an opportunity for you to have your voice heard. You can find the documentation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

If you wish to respond to any of the questions you must do so by completing the online form on the webpage by Friday 29th January at 23.45. When the consultation is completed the DfE and Ofqual will use all the information they have received to decide on how grades should be awarded for GCSE AS and A-Level. They will then issue guidance to schools which must be followed so that you will all receive the appropriate grade for each of your subjects.

The consultation document is very long and detailed, so the senior team and I have listed here the areas that are being consulted on. You will find the detail for each of the points in the full document by following the link above. Please note **these are not the final decisions**, when the final guidance is issued, I will forward it to you and your parents as I did in Spring 2020 when the summer exams were also cancelled.

- Assessments to be done 'late May/early June'
- Grades based on current performance – not what students would have achieved
- Exam boards providing papers for teachers to mark and coursework to be included
- Teachers can use school generated papers
- Exams can be completed at home under specific circumstances
- A mixture of exams per subject so students don't know which one they are sitting
- Exams boards to provide support to schools on grading
- School leaders to sign off on grades after internal standardisation has taken place
- Exam boards to sample evidence to quality assure the process in schools
- An appeals process will be in place

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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The most important thing for you as a Y11 or a Y13 student is to know that the DfE and Ofqual are working to ensure that whatever the process is ,you are able to progress to the next stage of your education without being disadvantaged. In the meantime you must continue to work hard, complete your assignments and your home learning and engage fully in your learning, it is only January, final evidence is not going to be due for at least 4 months. This is a lot of time for you to be able to show how good you are. If you have any difficulties accessing your learning and you are in Y11 you must contact Ms Acheampong and if you are in Y13 please contact Ms Barker. It is really important that we work together to ensure that you get the grades you deserve.

Please take good care of yourselves.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'O'Dwyer', is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs O'Dwyer
Headteacher