



Ms Sue Lovecy, Head of School

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Year 10 – exams update

**Below is the guidance for year 11 grade setting this year.** Our curriculum plan allows our students to retake Biology next year in year 11 so students do not need to worry about missing out in this subject.

As you are aware year 10 study 4 hours of French and Spanish and it is not possible to replicate this next year so I will be asking the Department of education if they will grade these subjects in the same way as year 11. This will allow year 10 to gain the grade they deserve without the pressure of having to continue with this next year.

I hope you are all coping well and enjoying, as much as you can your isolation. We have now received advice on the process of creating 'calculated' grades. All the information (released thus far), is shared on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>.

However, I hope the following provides a better summary

- Ofqual (the government department that regulates exams, assessments and tests) will establish the process to provide a calculated grade, working with exam boards to ensure the process is, consistently applied, for all students.
- The exam boards will ask teachers to submit their opinion about the most likely grade the students would have achieved. This will indeed be down to personal opinion, and will draw on a range of evidence:-
  - Mock exams results
  - Non-examined assessment (NEA)
  - Performance in the classroom (general attitude to work) and on other assessments.

We expect to receive clear guidance in due course, in order to do this fairly and robustly.

- The exam boards will combine this (most likely) grade with other 'relevant data – including prior attainment' (at Key stage 2, when our young people were aged 11) – this is the only data set mentioned. I am not sure how much weight will be put on this data, for a number of reasons, not least that some of our students do not have this data to their name because they did not take SATs.
- We will be as positive and as fair as possible to our students.
- The distribution of grades is intended to show a 'similar pattern' to previous grades. This means Ofqual will ensure the number (percentage) of grades 1 through to 9 will be similar to previous years.
- The information is expected to be shared, probably through exam boards producing paper confirmation (as per the usual way that exam results are communicated), by the end of July.
- If it is felt that a grade awarded is incorrect, there will be an opportunity for appeal, which is an appeal against the correct process being followed.
- Also, if it is felt the grade does not reflect the likely performance of a student, it is anticipated there will be an opportunity sit an exam, once schools are open again. I would anticipate this being communicated well in advance, to enable revision for that exam, to receive a published time-table and possibly be asked to use St Martins School as a centre (which we will want to do). Students may also wish to sit their exams in Summer 2021 in their new college or school.
- There are some vocational and technical qualifications to be awarded, and Ofqual will be working with them to explore how best to achieve a consistent and fair approach to grade awarding for all students facing this challenge.

When we have further detail to share, I will be in touch with you again. Thinking of you all. Stay safe

Sue Lovecy  
Head of school