



8 March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am sure that you and your daughter or son are awaiting news about how GCSE or A-Level grades will be awarded this Summer and how the School intends to collect evidence to determine these grades. I am writing to you to keep you informed about our current plans and I would like to assure you that we will continue to keep you informed as these develop further. We are currently basing our intended procedures on summary guidance published by the Department For Education (DfE) and Ofqual. We are still waiting for more detailed information from exam boards who have informed us that they will provide schools with support materials by the end of March.

Ofqual have written the following in their guidance:

Grades for GCSEs, AS and A-Levels will be determined in summer 2021 through teachers assessing their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive; these will be evidence-based decisions based on teachers' assessments of the standard at which their students are performing; teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement; teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible; schools should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.

Ofqual will also expect The Head of Centre (the Headteacher) to finalise the grades submitted by the School by certifying that the grades had been determined in line with the School's agreed approach and the exam boards' requirements.

Whilst a good proportion of the emphasis for determining grades will be placed on Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exam results, other sources of evidence must be included to ensure we encompass these Ofqual requirements. This will include: Non-Exam Assessments (NEAs); centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification; questions provided by exam boards; performance records in PE, Drama and Music.

After Easter, in the weeks from 12 April 2021 to 21 May 2021, lessons will continue as normal during this period. Students will continue to be taught further content where the courses are not yet completed. They will also be given support in lessons for developing their responses to assessments in a similar way to if they had been preparing for public examinations. They will undertake further assessments on materials they have covered since sitting their mock exams and they will also be given some opportunities to demonstrate progress on content that was assessed in the mock exams. Students will be given as much notice as is reasonably possible for these assessments (up to 2 weeks in many cases) and consideration will be given for students to have sufficient time to reflect on previous feedback before subsequent assessments are sat. I hope you will understand the importance in encouraging your son/daughter to keep working to their best ability throughout this whole period.

Students should also continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), as well as for Extended Project Qualifications. NEAs will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed. Teachers will keep students informed about expectations and deadlines for this work.

HEADTEACHER: Mr Darren Ayling, BA, MA, MBA

ADDRESS: Park Road, Peterborough, PE1 2UE

TELEPHONE: 01733 751541

EMAIL: admin@kings.peterborough.sch.uk

A PUBLICLY FUNDED INDEPENDENT ACADEMY

THE KING'S (THE CATHEDRAL) SCHOOL, PETERBOROUGH IS A COMPANY LIMITED BY
GUARANTEE REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES NO 7464058.
REGISTERED OFFICE: THE KING'S SCHOOL, PARK ROAD, PETERBOROUGH PE1 2UE

We plan to write to parents, carers and students again mid-April to update them about how they will be informed about the range of assessments that will be included in the determination of the grades for each subject and when further assessments will take place.

For your further information results days are earlier this year, 10 August 2021 for A-Level and 12 August 2021 for GCSE. We will write to GCSE and A-Level students separately when we know more about implications of this for next steps such as Post 16 School and College courses and UCAS procedures.

Although we all acknowledge that the national arrangements for determining these grades are far from ideal, the School will have all of its students' best interests in mind when determining these grades, and we will do all we can to ensure they are fair, reliable and accurate whilst taking account of all students' individual circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Rhodes
Deputy Headteacher (Academic)