



The Bridge Short Stay School
Appleton Drive | Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire | CH65 7EP
Tel: 0151 3376873

April 2021

Re: GCSE Assessment 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know the Government have taken the decision to cancel formal exams this year in light of the disruption to education during the COVID pandemic. The Year 11 cohort will instead be assessed and graded by schools, in line with guidance that has come from the exam boards. We've now had fuller information on that process so I'm writing to update you on how this will work at The Bridge.

All schools will be submitting grades to the exam board based on a judgement of the areas of the curriculum which have been covered in school. Where, as a result of periods of school closure or self-isolation, not all topics have been studied schools are able to submit a grade based only on what students have actually had the opportunity to be taught.

Teaching staff will produce an initial assessment of each student, based on a range of evidence (detailed below) and in line with grade descriptors that have been produced to ensure consistency across schools. The grade descriptors for each subject can be viewed here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Summer-2021-Grade-Descriptors-GCSE.pdf>

Following teacher assessment there will be a process of internal moderation to check the fairness and accuracy of grades awarded, initially by other teaching staff within the subject and then by the school leadership team. After submission of these grades schools are also subject to external quality assurance checks by the exam boards to ensure consistency between schools. As a result of these checks some grades may change from the initial assessments made by teachers and so they won't be able to share grades with students at that time.

Schools are expected to give greater weighting to more recent evidence and so all students have a real opportunity to impact on their grades in the coming half term. We will be conducting a more formal assessment week in the week commencing 10th May 2021, lessons in the build up to this week will be focused on preparation for those. While these assessments are not the sole decider in the way that exams normally would be, they are the best opportunity students will have to demonstrate progress and achievement of a higher grade.

Earlier work will also be taken into account. The sources of evidence we plan to use, in priority order are:



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- Outcome of exam board assessments completed in May
- Outcome of past paper questions completed in school during Spring 2021
- Half termly teacher assessment data
- Outcome of other past paper questions, completed in school
- Outcome of other past paper questions, completed as part of remote learning
- Other work completed in school
- Other work completed as part of remote learning

As most of our students haven't been with us for the entirety of their course we are also working with excluding schools to gather evidence of achievement from their time prior to joining us.

Teacher assessment will need to be completed by May half term and normal teaching & learning will continue in school until then. The last day for regular, full time attendance of your child however will be Friday 28th May. We will continue to stay in touch with students and their families to support transition to Post-16 destinations following the May half term, more details of this support will follow next term.

The issue of GCSE results has been brought forward this year and they will be available for collection from school on the 12th August 2021. The appeals process for any student who doesn't believe their results are a fair reflection of their work will open on that date and we will confirm those arrangements nearer the time.

This group of Year 11 students have suffered really significant disruption to their education over the last 2 years. This doesn't need to define them; they still have the opportunity to be incredibly successful in their lives. Normally at this point in the year exams give a focused end point to school life, but this year it is more important than ever that they show the best of themselves in school over the next 6 weeks to allow us to make judgements that reflect their potential.

Best Wishes

Mr A Stewart
Headteacher