



Tuesday 16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 students

It has been a pleasure to welcome our Year 11 students back to the school building and we have been hugely impressed with their maturity and hard work.

You are aware that the government released some initial guidance regarding the awarding of grades this summer. We have not yet received the detailed process that each exam board will use but I want to take this opportunity to inform you of our approach so that you can be reassured that students will get the results which reflect their talent and their abilities.

We want the process to be as clear and easily understood as possible and we will be transparent about why we are doing what we are doing. We aim to give the students as much opportunity as possible to show us what they can do so that they feel a sense of achievement and provide them with the appropriate platform for their next steps.

We are also mindful of ensuring that we get the balance right between the wellbeing of young people and their families and the need to set up a process that is fair and robust.

How will teachers make judgements on grades?

- They will use a range of evidence of student's work, like coursework, practice papers, substantial class or homework, mock papers and in class assessments to inform their decisions
- Teachers will let students know what evidence they will use before submitting grades to the exam board. This is so that students can confirm it is their own work and let teachers know of any mitigating circumstances that might have affected it
- Teachers will only assess students based on what they have been taught
- Teachers are not permitted to share the grades awarded with the students

How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- Moorside High School will have an internal quality assurance process in place that will take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure that teacher's judgements are not too harsh or too lenient
- Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They will check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades and they might also visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
- We will submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we have followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process

When will the students get their results?

- Thursday 12 August 2021

Is there an opportunity to appeal?

- Yes, all students will have the right to appeal their grade
- If you appeal, we will carry out a review to make sure that we have followed all processes correctly and that we haven't made an error in your grade
- If we do find an error, we will submit your revised grade to the exam board. If the board is satisfied, it will issue a revised grade
- If we do not believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We will share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade we set isn't reasonable, they will provide an alternative grade
- If you disagree with the school's or the exam board's decision, you can refer the issue to Ofqual's Exam Procedure Review Service (EPRS). The exam board will have the final say unless the EPRS finds that it has made an error
- It is important to note that appeals could lead to grades going down as well as up
- The Department for Education has indicated that it hopes to offer an Autumn series of exams for students who wish to try and improve on their teacher assessed grades. This has yet to be confirmed.

I will write to you again once we get clearer guidance from the exam boards and provide you with more information on the evidence which will be collected for each individual subject.

We know that the grades which the students will receive in the summer will have the same value as grades given in the past and in the future. They will reflect the hard work and effort put in by the students. These are not easy times for any of us, students, parents/carers, and staff but we all need to be resilient and keep going with a positive mindset. We are with you every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Miss Smalley

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education