



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

11 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### Year 11/13 Examinations Results 2021

On 25<sup>th</sup> February, the Department for Education released a press release to explain how students would be awarded their GCSE and A-level grades in 2021. You can view this in full by clicking this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students>.

In the Government guidance, it was explained that students will be awarded Teacher Assessed Grades. Based on the learning taught to date, teachers will use a range of evidence to determine these grades. This evidence may be in the form of optional questions provided by exam boards, mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests. In a change from last year's process, no algorithm will be used.

Since the announcement was made, we have been working on putting together a robust plan on how we can ensure our students are given the best chance at securing accurate, yet fair results. This was shared with students in assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> March, and we would also like to share this with you. We feel this will give them the best chance of proving their ability, whilst ensuring student wellbeing remains a priority throughout the process:

- There will be no March mock examinations, although some mapping assessments will still take place in order to determine where there are gaps in knowledge; these will be held in class
- We will provide all students with a clear assessment timetable which we will issue in the next few weeks
- **The bulk of the assessments will take place between Easter and May half-term**
- Assessments will take place in class and not in the exam hall
- Students entitled to access arrangements will receive them for all their assessments (extra time etc)
- Special considerations will apply if students have to isolate/are ill for any assessments and they will still be able to achieve a grade
- For the majority of subjects, we will only assess what has already been taught
- Teachers will let students know very soon exactly what topics will be assessed
- We will not be assessing the whole course
- We will be limiting the numbers of assessments in each course
- The assessments will be exam style using past paper questions and/or new material provided by exam boards
- Students' grades will be based upon the assessments in term 5 as well as a range of other evidence from throughout the course
- Ultimately, we would like to give students every opportunity to show us what they are capable of

*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at [kbones@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:kbones@buckinghamsschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



It is extremely important that students are well prepared for these upcoming assessments as they now have a huge opportunity to prove what they are capable of. Students and staff will be working closely together to build portfolios of evidence which will help them earn their final grade. More detailed information on exactly what each assessment will look like will follow via the students' teachers.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Dunckley  
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