



Padgate Academy

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Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MBA/MSI

7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Y11 - Changes to the GCSE examinations

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well. We know that both you and your child will have been watching the news and will be anxious about the impact that this will have on your GCSE grades. We hope that you were able to watch the video message that we sent to you all on Monday which stated that it was important that your child continued to engage in all work that was set by their teachers.

Yesterday the Secretary of State for Education made a statement to the House of Commons about the changes to the GCSE examinations. A summary is as follows:

- Students will not sit GCSE, AS and A Level examinations this summer.
- A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students.
- We expect Ofqual to consider a teacher-assessed system as a replacement.
- Teachers will be given training and support to ensure that these marks are awarded fairly and consistently.

There unfortunately was no mention of BTEC or vocational qualifications but like last year we would expect them to be treated in the same way. There was no added detail on what these teacher assessments may look like. As soon as we know more details we will continue to write and inform you.

It is important to remember that the GCSE grades represent the hard work and effort of your child over the last 11 years, not the final few months of this academic year. We do know that the GCSE grades that the students will receive in the summer will have the same value as grades given in the past and in the future. With this in mind, it is important now that students remain fully focussed and engaged in their learning as everything they are learning will prepare them for future study once they leave Padgate Academy. Our high expectations for effort, engagement and participation remain the same and teachers will continue to teach high quality lessons, covering the planned curriculum.

If you have any specific questions regarding subjects and your child's performance and engagement you have the opportunity to discuss this with their teachers at the year 11 parents evening which will take place as planned.

We know that these are challenging times for all of us, but our values of TRUST, TEAMWORK and TENACITY are more important now than ever. We are always here to support you and your child and we will keep you informed as the information becomes clearer.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Barclay
Principal

Mrs J. Hawley
Senior Lead for Student Intervention

Mrs K. Mills
Pastoral Leader for Year 11

