



CROOKHORN COLLEGE

26th February 2021

Dear Students and Parents

2021 GCSE Assessment Arrangements

I am pleased to now be in the position to write to you with more information about the arrangements for the GCSE assessments that will happen this summer. At this stage, the DfE has provided an overall approach to exam grading but we will have to wait until later this half term to find out what the specific arrangements will be for each subject. A summary of the guidance released by the Department for Education is as follows:

- 1) Students will receive grades determined by teachers.
- 2) A range of evidence will be used to assess pupils. This could include mock exams, coursework, work completed during the GCSE course and possibly optional questions set by exam boards.
- 3) Exam boards will provide detailed guidance to schools about making grade judgements before the end of this term.
- 4) BTEC and other vocational grades will be assessed by teachers rather than through exams.
- 5) Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught.
- 6) The final deadline for schools to submit grades to exam boards will be June 18th 2021.
- 7) There will be multiple checks by the school and the exam boards to ensure fairness to students.
- 8) Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.
- 9) GCSE Results Day will be August 12th 2021.
- 10) A November 2021 exam series will be available for students wishing to sit examinations in any of their GCSE subjects where they feel this is necessary.

I am pleased that the arrangements that have been confirmed today are in line with what our teachers had expected and have been working towards since the announcement that GCSE exams would not happen this summer. I have absolute confidence in our staff to provide every student with the opportunity to demonstrate the very best standard of work they can produce.

In line with point 2 above, teachers will use previous work and future assessments set over the coming months, which will be moderated against other Crookhorn students, to ensure the best possible evidence base upon which to make grade judgements. **We will not be holding the full mock series that were planned for after Easter but teachers will be planning smaller regular assessments that can be used to support students.** Teachers will ensure that students are well prepared for assessments and they should be considered as opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills and ability rather than thinking of them as an examination with grade boundaries or a pass or fail outcome.



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I will continue as always to contact you with further information as and when we receive updates from the government. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to email Mr Collins via james.collins@crookhorn.hants.sch.uk and he will be happy to provide further guidance.

Mr Collins and I will be doing an assembly for Year 11 and 10 students to help provide reassurance about the upcoming process and press the importance of **commitment** and **responsibility** the students must have towards their own learning and work. This is a fantastic opportunity for every student to strive to achieve the best possible grade they can across all their GCSE subjects.

To this end it is imperative that all Year 11 and Year 10 students return on Tuesday 9th of March and Wednesday 10th of March respectively, with a clear will and determination to work hard and achieve their absolute best over the coming weeks.

I look forward to seeing all students back in College very soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Bennett
Headteacher