

23rd March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The awarding of grades – Summer 2021

Further to the letter sent out on the 16th March, I would like to update parents, carers and students on the centre assessment process at Brooke Weston Academy. Although this letter does not include the final details, it does give you an overview of the process, and during the course of this week students have started receiving more detailed information from their subject teachers.

Principles

The principles which underpin the process I will describe below are:

- Clarity and simplicity – we want the process to be as clear and easily understood as possible.
- Transparency – we will be open about why we are doing what we are doing.
- Opportunity – students should have as much opportunity as possible to show us what they can do.
- Fairness – The grades students receive should be a reflection of their ability.
- Achievement – we want to provide students with the appropriate platform for their next steps.

What is the situation now?

- Students returned to face-to-face teaching during the week commencing 15th March, subjects have continued to teach lessons to ensure that students are adequately prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Following this, students will be required to sit internal assessments which will be completed by 7th May for most subjects and in accordance with exam board guidance. As soon as we have more information we will write to you again with a detailed timetable.
- These assessments may play an important role when we consider students' final grades.
- These assessments will vary in length according to subjects and again more detail will follow.
- We will communicate with students the evidence on which their grades will be based on and further information will be provided to you once we know more from the exam boards.

I know you will have several questions at this point, but please do bear with us whilst we await further information.

What does this mean for students?

- All students need to continue to work hard and complete all work set up to the end of their time at school.
- The school will take into account a wide range of evidence; NEA assessments (non-examined assessments), class tests, classwork and homework, and assessments and classwork from now to the end of the course.
- Teachers will continue to set and assess work to support what they know about the standard they are working at.
- Students should use the feedback from teachers to make progress and improve. Teachers will use the criteria for each course to support students to understand how to improve and make progress.
- Teachers will not comment on a likely overall final grade as individual pieces of work are assessed over the next few months.
- Teachers will only assess a final grade at the end of the course, and this will not and cannot be provided to students due to exam board regulations.
- Students should focus on working hard and using feedback to continue to improve.

On 17th March 2021, the Department for Education announced the exam board materials that can be used would be published online after the Easter holidays and schools are due to receive them by the Easter holidays.

On 18th March 2021, the Chair of Ofqual announced that evidence used “will not be a topic for negotiation” between teachers and students. In making judgements, “teachers will be required to work within the framework of exam board guidance, the policy their school or college puts in place in the light of this guidance and to be accountable for doing so with professional integrity.”

Last day of term for Year 11 and Year 13

We are conscious that parents and students are keen to know the date from which they are no longer required to attend school. Under normal circumstances, students are not required to attend school after the end of their final exam and return to school to hand over school property, with a formal leaving date of 30th June.

This year, staff have to assess and mark students’ work, before providing a centre-assessed grade, and all of this must be completed by 11th June. In light of this, we will review our plans following the exam board update and will communicate students’ final date at school as soon as we can.

Results days

Results days will take place in August:

- AS, A Level + CTEC– **Tuesday 10 August 2021**
- GCSE – **Thursday 12 August 2021**

Please be aware that the examination boards have made it clear that staff cannot share overall grades with students before results days, and parents and students should not attempt to influence the grades that are awarded. Please trust us to put a fair process in place to support students during these challenging times.

Next steps

We will communicate with you shortly regarding key dates and of course this is subject to further information from the exam boards. We intend to create a ‘frequently asked questions’ document once we know more and this will be available on our website. Please email enquiries@brookeweston.org with any questions you would like us to include.

We are working hard to create a process which is robust, fair and prepares students effectively for their next steps. I will send out another update shortly with more detail and we will continue to update students during lessons. Thank you for your continued support over these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal