



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

CAD/dah

7th January 2021

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Maths &
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Headteacher

Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH

School Business Manager

Mrs. J. Wakeham

Dear Year 11 parents,

We are writing again following today's announcement from Gavin Williamson regarding GCSE exams being cancelled.

It is important to understand that this announcement currently relates to GCSE courses, not the technical awards or Btecs that many of our students also study. We are still waiting on information in regards to those courses.

The infographic from the government below explains the next steps that will be completed in order to determine grades this summer.

HM Government

EXAMS

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

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The consultation will explore the methods that they expect teachers to use in deciding on the grades that are awarded. We will then be informed on the process to use and will be given training to ensure the grades given are fair.

To some extent this is good news as we are being trusted to allow students to achieve their true potential, rather than facing potentially unfair exams. However, it is really important to understand that there will be clear expectations and rigorous guidelines, and we may be asked to ensure students compete additional assessments between now and grading to support and evidence our judgements.

Again, we will need to await full guidance and continue to work together to support our students through this frustrating and no doubt worrying time. They have engaged with 'live' lessons very well this week, and should be encouraged to do so, as well as completing and submitting the work set.

In terms of the Child Development exam that is scheduled for next week we believe it sensible for the exam to continue. The qualification is a vocational one, and last year their grading system was different to GCSE. It helped candidates to have some of their grade based on an examination. We are aiming for all students and invigilators involved to be tested for COVID in school before the exam, and it will take place in socially distanced conditions. The whole Main Hall will be dedicated to approximately 20 students with other rooms also in use. While we advise that students complete the exam as planned, we also completely understand if they wish to miss the exam this time. Unfortunately, without any clear direction or proper clarification on the grading process, it is difficult to know exactly how vital completing the exam is. If you wish to withdraw your child from this exam, please email our exams officer on cotterellj@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

We will continue to update you, and once we know the process, we will explain how we will be working through it.

Yours faithfully

C A Dean
Deputy Headteacher

