

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

### Awarding of Grades 2021

I hope that you have all had a safe and restful half term break. Tomorrow, I will be writing to parents and carers about the phased return of all students to school – we are really looking forward to seeing you all! Ahead of this, I wanted to write to you to immediately share the details of today's press release from the Department of Education and the outcome of last month's Ofqual consultation.

Earlier today, Ofqual published the outcomes of their consultation, which sets out the rationale for their decision making on the awarding of grades this year. The full document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

For clarity, here are important details that have been confirmed by the Department of Education and Ofqual today:

- Schools will be able to draw on **a range of evidence** when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as internal assessments, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class assessments.
- Schools will be expected to submit grades to examination boards by **Friday 18 June**, allowing as much teaching time as possible before schools make their assessments.
- Results days for AS and A level will be **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.
- Results for GCSE will be **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.
- Students will be able to appeal their grade. The consultation states:

*'A student who is unhappy with their grade will first ask their centre to check whether an administrative or procedural error has been made.*

*Where a centre does identify an error in the grade submitted to the exam board, it can submit a revised grade and a rationale for the board to consider. If the exam board is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade. Where a centre does not believe an error had been made, a student can ask the centre to appeal to the exam board on their behalf. The centre will submit the student's appeal to the exam board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made; the exam board will consider whether, in its view, the grade reflected an appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If the exam board judges that it did not, the exam board will determine the grade that the evidence would support. The exam board will also check that the centre had followed its own process.'*



- To support schools in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance to them before the end of the spring term.

All times, it has been our intention to share information with you transparently as we receive it and we will continue to do so to ensure that you are as informed as possible at each stage. We had anticipated many of details that have been confirmed over the course of today and, therefore, have already taken substantial measures to ensure that we are well-prepared to support our students in the very best possible way.

Now that the guidance has been shared, we can fully finalise our own plans; we will share the finer details of our arrangements with you as soon as we are able to. As before, I will write to you again with a further update and arrange a 'Headteacher Briefing' to explain, fully, the information and to take any questions you might have. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please continue to use the [examinations2021@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:examinations2021@nsg.northants.sch.uk) dedicated email address and one of the Senior Leadership Team will respond to you.

As always, we will continue to do everything that we can to ensure that our wonderful students are as well served and supported as they can be – we are incredibly proud of them.

With best wishes



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya  
**Headteacher**

