

Alderbrook School

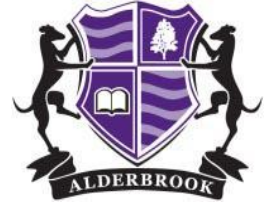
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19th January 2021

Dear Year 11 & Year 13 Students

CC Year 11 & Year 13 Parents

I wrote to you all on the 7th January to encourage you to keep going with your education and not be overly disappointed by the decision to replace your planned exams with a new system. Since then, I have been very impressed by the resilience and commitment to your studies you have shown – well done.

We now have some more details on what the proposed new system will be. Please note these plans are not finalised and could change, but I know you will want to know without delay.

The key points for you to note are:

- 1) Teachers, following a rigorous process, will decide your grades in June based on the standard you are performing at in each of your subjects at that time.
- 2) They will use a range of evidence to make this decision, including;
 - a. Assessments you will take in May and June here at school. They will not be a full series of exams, but instead a mixture of internal, “exam style” papers we design ourselves, and external papers produced for schools by exam boards. You will not be tested on topics we haven’t been able to teach.
 - b. Other evidence that could be useful – for example any coursework or NEAs you have been able to complete, mock exams you have taken in the past, other work you complete in class when schools resume, or even work you are doing now from home. We are awaiting further guidance from the exam boards as it may be that more weight is put on work towards the end of your course; the more you move through your course the more your performance should improve.
- 3) The grades teachers set will be subject to extensive internal and external moderation. This will involve moderators looking at the evidence teachers have used and confirming the marking. We have good capacity and expertise that will support this process – for example many of our teachers also are trained examiners and mark real GCSE and A Level papers in a normal year.
- 4) Teachers cannot talk to you about your grades. To do so would constitute exam malpractice and you must not ask them. If you did feel that the grade you eventually receive on results day (which may now be in July not August) was unfair, you might be able appeal it, and this process will be clarified at a later date.

Your teachers and Curriculum Leaders will provide further details to you in the coming weeks, as and when exam boards confirm them. For now, please be patient and focus on your normal lessons. If you worry too much about the precise details of the new plans, then ironically it will distract you from your learning and ultimately could cause you to get a lower grade. We will make sure you are fully supported and treated fairly – all you need to do is show up to every lesson, complete every piece of work and try your best.

You can read the full consultation on the new system [here](#).

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Beveridge', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr T Beveridge
Headteacher