

Alderbrook School

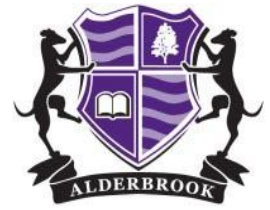
Blossomfield Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 1SN

Tel: 0121 704 2146

Email: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Web: www.alderbrookschool.co.uk

Company registered England & Wales no. 07687619



BET/MAC

28 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We want to give you a further update about the grading process this year that has replaced exams. Before the Easter break, the JCQ guidance was published and sent to all exam centres. We have been using this guidance to finalise our plans to ensure that students receive fair grades this summer. As you are aware, students in Years 11 and 13 have started a series of mini-assessments in lessons over the last two weeks. We fully understand how difficult the last year has been for students and I would like to personally congratulate them on how they have applied themselves so far.

I attach to this letter two important documents:

1. Summer Assessment FAQs – this document answers a number of questions you may have on the assessments and grading process.
2. Centre Policy – all schools are required to create a centre policy outlining the roles, responsibilities and procedures in the assessment, grading and quality assurance processes that we will follow. Please use this document to get further detail on how we will proceed.

An important reminder for this year is that the grading process is very different to the process compared to last year. JCQ has stated that:

*The centre assessment grades used as a basis for final outcomes in June 2020 were based on a different consideration to that for the current series. In June 2020, centres were asked to provide the grade that they considered the student would most likely have achieved had exams taken place. **In 2021, grades must be based on the evidence produced by students** (JCQ 2021).*

We want to make sure that you are clear on the process we are following to collate the evidence required by JCQ, and the above documents should help you to understand this further.

Before Easter we met with the large majority of Year 11s and 13s individually to discuss their performance and to listen to any questions and concerns they might have. We also asked parents if there were any periods during the course of study when we may need to apply special consideration for evidence when students have suffered significant mitigating circumstances. Please continue to let us know if there are any mitigating circumstances that arise over this half term by emailing the office FAO Heather Tombs, Examination Officer; for details of what may constitute mitigating circumstances, please see the FAQ document. If students are absent and miss a mini-assessment, departments will aim to accommodate students to take the assessment on their return; you do not need to contact us about this as we are tracking attendance closely.



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

In the next few weeks, on Class Charts announcements, we will send an outline to students and parents/carers detailing the evidence that is being considered for each subject to reach a grade. The most significant weighting for grading will be based on recent mini and hall assessments, and any NEA. The existing evidence selected by teachers that meets Ofqual guidance, will also help us to reach a holistic judgement on the final grade.

Please can I remind you that students and parents cannot find out teacher assessed grades before results day. If students or parents ask the school or teachers for their grades or to be given high grades, this is malpractice. The school is required to report this to the exam boards. However, if students want to discuss any part of the process or have any concerns, we are here to help and would encourage them to speak to their form tutor or a senior member of staff. In the next few weeks we will publish further information on the evidence being used to reach grades in each subject; we are very confident that our systems and procedures are fair and robust.

Yours faithfully



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher

