

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Year 11 - GCSE Information

We are sure you have been reading the news and announcements on GCSE level grades. This [link](#) takes you straight to the information from the UK Government and we would encourage you to read this carefully as it explains how GCSE grades will be calculated. We think you may also find this [press release](#) (Friday 20th March) informative.

We know that this is a potentially worrying and confusing time for our Year 11 students. We would like to reassure you that our input into final grades is not simply based on one measurement (such as PPE results) and that we will be expected to factor in a wide range of data.

Important within this is the explicit mention of NEA coursework. We are therefore asked students to continue to adhere to the internal deadlines shared by class teachers for completion of non-examined assessment work. We would also encourage students to do the following:

- Continue to study English Language, maths and science
- Research and read around your chosen post 16 courses

To support this – Year 11 students are encouraged to check Show My Homework each Wednesday, where suggested tasks will be posted by the English, maths and science departments. In addition, over the forthcoming weeks departments will be uploading suggested reading lists and post-16 preparation tasks and activities onto Show My Homework on Wednesdays.

The Government has indicated that we will receive clear guidance on the information required from schools and how to provide it. This data will then be subject to external standardisation. This is to ensure fairness and a similar spread of grades to those achieved Nationwide in recent years. It is clear from the announcement that prior attainment data will be factored in at exam board level.

Students will be able to appeal the process to determine their individual grade and if they remain unhappy at this point they could elect to sit the examinations at an "early opportunity". More information is promised to schools about this by the end of April and as soon as we have any further information we will share this with you.

Finally, can I say that we are extremely proud of our Year 11 students and we are determined to do our utmost to allow them to move on successfully to the next chapter in their lives. For any students who are particularly struggling I would encourage them to contact Compass Buzz <https://www.compass-uk.org/buzz-us/>.

We will be in touch again as soon as we receive further clarity from the DfE.

With our best wishes,

Miriam Oakley