



# BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School  
Avenue of Remembrance  
Sittingbourne  
ME10 4DB

24 March 2021

Dear Parents,

## Year 11 Update – GCSE grades

It has been great to see the Year 11 students return to school over the past weeks, many of whom have worked so hard over the last few months including during lockdown. I have been continually impressed with this year group and it is great that they continued their excellent attitudes to learning from terms 1 and 2 during this difficult time. What is important is that all students understand that they still have the ability to influence the grades that they will receive in the summer.

It is certainly not the case that it is time for them to 'take their foot off the pedal' and they should continue to make the most of their time within school to prepare themselves for what lies ahead. We now have more information about how grades will be awarded this summer, and I have summarised the key points below.

The key information for GCSE qualifications is:

- Schools will use a range of evidence to submit grades to exam boards
- Students will be assessed on what they have been taught (allowing for gaps in knowledge)
- Further assessment should be undertaken to ensure there is enough evidence to demonstrate the grade a student is working at, in some cases these will take place under controlled conditions within classrooms
- If students have been working on non-exam assessment pieces, these should be completed following guidance from staff so they can be included in the portfolio of evidence
- Results day will be Thursday 12 August 2021.

The important point from the information above is that students fully understand that there will be future assessments conducted in class to assess their abilities and formulate grades. These assessments will be produced by the exam boards and departments will be able to select which elements of these papers are used to suit the topics that have been taught. Students will not be assessed on areas that have not been covered by a subject.

With this in mind teachers will continue to teach and revise course content to ensure that students have secure knowledge and are able to demonstrate their understanding. Whilst students will not undertake formal exams, it is important that they complete as much of their courses as possible so that they are able to move onto their Post 16 destinations in the best position possible.

The assessments produced by exam boards should be available at the end of March and therefore departments will plan to use these in the first 2 weeks of Term 5, following the Easter break. For this reason, it is important that students put time and effort into preparing for these assessments as they would if they were sitting formal external exams. In order to assist with this preparation, we will be offering Easter revision school during the Easter break and I would urge students to take advantage of these additional sessions. Details of this will be released shortly.

It is also important to continue completing any coursework or portfolio work in Art, 3D Design and ICT as these will definitely be included in the centre assessed grade process.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Schools will need to collate evidence to justify the grades that students are given and we will draw upon a basket of evidence to do this. We will also use a system of moderation as directed by the DfE to ensure centre assessed grades are checked against all available evidence both at department level and by senior leaders before submitting grades to the exam boards. Once submitted to the exam boards these grades will go through a quality assurance process before being awarded on results day. This may mean that grades will be adjusted up or down even after the school has submitted the grades.

Staff will not be able to discuss individual grades with students; however, we are able to discuss progress and attitude to learning with them to help them produce the best work possible. We understand that this is a difficult time for students and parents and hope that this information will help support you through the next few months. Below is our proposed timeframe:

- Mon 19 April Exam Board Assessments
- Mon 26 April Exam Board Assessments
- Mon 3 May Marking Exam Board Assessments
- Mon 10 May Moderation of Exam Board Assessments
- Mon 17 May Moderation of folders & grades checked in department
- Mon 24 May Grades updated and further evidence collected if necessary
- Mon 7 June Subject grading confirmed – Grades analysed by Leadership Group
- Mon 14 June - Fri 18 June Grades checked and submitted by Leadership Group

It is important to note that between the exam board assessments being completed and submission of grades, **in class assessments will continue** in order to provide opportunities for additional supporting evidence.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs A Edwards**  
**Head of Year 11**