



Beaumont School

Austen Way St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 0XB t: 01727 854726

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Headteacher: Mr M Atkinson e: head@beaumont.school

12 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well and that the return to lessons in school has gone smoothly for your child. It is lovely to see our classrooms full once again. Further to my previous letter, I am writing to provide some more information about our plans for assessing grades for our students in Years 11 and 13 this summer.

Important dates:

- We have to submit teacher-assessed grades to the exam boards by 18 June.
- A Level results will be published on 10 August.
- GCSE results will be published on 12 August.
- Vocational results will be published at the same time for each year group.

How we will assess grades:

- We will base our assessment on the standard at which students are working.
- We will only assess students on content they have been taught.
- Our grades will be based on actual work which our teachers have marked, rather than an algorithm.
- We will use a range of assessment evidence, in line with guidance from exam boards, but we will need to be confident that it is the student's own work.
- Each department will determine its own portfolio of evidence, which provides the best overview of student attainment in the circumstances.
- The evidence can come from any point during the course of study, but recent work, and assessments still to be completed, are likely to count more significantly.
- In deciding on the appropriate weighting, we are also likely to take into account whether the work was produced in secure conditions, whether the marking was moderated by teachers, and whether students were informed in advance that the work was likely to count towards the grade.
- The evidence which will count towards the final result will be the numerical score from each assessment, rather than any grades communicated during the course of study. Final grades will only be determined at the very end of the process and could be higher or lower than grades included in reports or for particular assessments.
- Students will be informed in advance of the assessment evidence which we intend to use, but will not be informed of the grade until the results days in August, in line with Ofqual's instructions.

Assessments still in the future:

- We plan to give students further opportunities to demonstrate what they are capable of in each subject.
- The bulk of these opportunities will consist of the upcoming mocks (Year 13 only), and questions provided by exam boards, which we have yet to receive.
- We intend to hold two weeks of scheduled assessments next half term, during which students will be allowed to have study leave. These assessments will typically be shorter than normal public exams.
- The first assessment week will take place in w/c 26 April for Year 11 and w/c 3 May for Year 13 (including 10 May because of the bank holiday on 3 May).





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- The second assessment week will take place in w/c 24 May for Years 11 and 13.
- Students will be given advance notice of the timings of their assessments and what they should revise.
- Some subjects may choose to assess outside of these weeks, but students will be informed in advance if this is the case.
- Students will always know if and when the work they are doing will count formally towards their grade. They will not be assessed without their knowledge.
- We will make provision so that students eligible for exams access arrangements will be able to use them.
- Leaving dates for students in Years 11 and 13 are yet to be confirmed, but are likely to be close to May/June half term, once the assessments are complete.

How we will ensure that grades are fair:

- We will carry out quality assurance (including moderation) and check grades thoroughly before they are submitted.
- We will consider previous results from Beaumont to ensure that this year's grades are not unduly harsh or lenient.
- Exam boards will review our quality assurance processes before grades are submitted.
- Once grades are submitted, the exam board will conduct various checks to make sure grades submitted are fair and consistent across centres. This will include sampling of evidence.
- If there are concerns with the grades submitted, the exam board will work with the school to address this before results day. Exam boards will not re-assess the work on which the grades are based.

After results days:

- Students will be entitled to appeal against their results.
- Any appeal will be considered initially by the school to determine whether processes were followed correctly, without errors.
- If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, the school will appeal to the exam board on the student's behalf, and the exam board will consider whether the processes were appropriate and whether academic judgement was exercised reasonably by the school in arriving at the grade.
- It is important to note that appeals could lead to grades going down as well as up.
- The Department for Education has indicated that it hopes to offer an autumn series of exams for students who wish to try to improve on their teacher-assessed grades. This has yet to be confirmed.

Next steps:

We are working to plan the portfolio of evidence which will be used in each qualification. This cannot be finalised until we have heard from exam boards with more precise guidance and a package of assessment materials. We will provide you with information about the assessment portfolios as soon as possible. I am sure you will understand that it will not be appropriate for us to enter into conversation with you





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about the grades to be awarded, and I must ask you to refrain from contacting any teachers to ask about them, because the restrictions placed on them mean that they will not be able to answer.

I can well imagine how difficult this situation is for our students, and it is not the way we wanted their courses to end. However, I can reassure them that we are taking the responsibility of assessing grades with the utmost seriousness and aiming to give them every chance to demonstrate what they can do and to gain the excellent results they deserve. The most important message is that our students should continue to work hard, because there is ample opportunity yet for them to earn success. We have every confidence in them, and we look forward to congratulating them on results day.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish your child the very best of luck in all assessments they undertake.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Mountstevens
Deputy Headteacher

