



Beaumont School

Austen Way St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 0XB t: 01727 854726
www.beaumontschool.com e: admin@beaumont.school
Headteacher: Mr M Atkinson e: head@beaumont.school

26 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you on our plans for assessment and grading of our Year 13 students. We still await guidance from Ofqual and the exam boards, so this can only be provisional, but I want you to have as much information as possible this side of the Easter holiday.

The most important matter to bring to your attention at this stage concerns the evidence which will be used in each subject to establish a final score and subsequently a grade for the qualification. Please find attached a table which outlines this information, including the weighting that we intend to apply to each piece of evidence. If any students are confused about the meaning of something in the table, they should ask for clarification from their teacher in the relevant subject. Please note that this table only covers qualifications taught at Beaumont. If your child studies at Sandringham or Verulam, they will communicate separately about the evidence they intend to use for assessment.

We are aware that a few students have experienced exceptional circumstances, such as those arising from serious ill-health, and that in their cases we might need to adapt the evidence used. If you believe that your child is in this category and that a piece of evidence should not be taken into consideration, please inform the Exams Office by email (exams@beaumont.school), explaining why we should disregard it. I must stress that mitigating circumstances must be very significant in order for us to make adjustments, because we will need to justify our decisions to the exam boards. For example, challenges based on ill-health must be accompanied by medical evidence. I am afraid we cannot disregard assessment evidence simply because a student did not perform well. The deadline for any objections to the evidence we intend to use is Friday 16th April. Please note that the school email account will not be manned during the Easter holiday, but rest assured that we will consider any email you send during this period at the start of next term.

Following on from the mocks, the next formal assessment will take place for most subjects in the week commencing 3rd May (please be aware that 3rd May itself is a bank holiday, so no assessments will take place on this day). We will inform students of the dates and times of their assessments after the Easter holiday and teachers have already provided students with guidance about what they should revise on their Google Classrooms. A few subjects will need to assess outside of the main assessment weeks, but they will give students advance notice and guidance if they do so.





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We will not be grading most assessments, but we will inform students of the score achieved in each one. As well as marking the work, our teachers will be conducting moderation to quality assure the marks awarded, but if your child believes the score is incorrect, they should raise the concern promptly with the relevant teacher so we can investigate.

While I have every confidence that none of you would do anything unethical, it would be remiss of me not to bring to your attention Ofqual's [latest guidance](#), which indicates that the school has a responsibility 'to avoid teachers being put under pressure from students, parents or carers to submit grades that are higher than the evidence supports.' We are required to keep a record of any attempt to do so and it could be deemed malpractice by the awarding body, with possible sanctions as a consequence. I know that you and your children will show respect to our staff by allowing them to carry out their professional responsibilities to assess fairly without interference.

I would be grateful if you could share this letter with your child. We are very much aware that our students will be experiencing a lot of anxiety about their grades, but I do hope the information helps and I wish them productive revision. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mr J Mountstevens
Deputy Headteacher

