



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

Mr V Murray – Headteacher

8 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

When I wrote to you on Tuesday 5 January, I said that I would keep you updated if we had any more news about the Summer 2021 examinations. Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, made a statement in parliament confirming that exams in the summer would be cancelled and said the following:

'I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms. The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.'

At this point in time we do not have any more details. The statement from Simon Lebus, Chief Regulator and Head of Ofqual, is really quite useful at this point:

'We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It's important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.'

Finally, there is a summary below from gov.uk which explains what we know at the moment:

- **Students will not sit GCSE, AS and A level exams this summer**
- **A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students**
- **We expect Ofqual, the exams regulator, to consider a teacher-assessed system as a replacement**
- **Teachers will be given training and support to ensure these marks are awarded fairly and consistently**

The key message is for students to continue working on their subjects, to the best of their ability, with the help and support of their subject teachers, the school and you at home. We really do appreciate everything you are doing to support your child at the moment. If you have any questions about examinations, please contact Becky Brown bbrown@grange.bucks.sch.uk or for general support please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Becky Brown
Deputy Headteacher