



KINGS' SCHOOL, WINCHESTER

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HEADTEACHER – Dr J Adams, BSc, PhD, PGCE, FCCT

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to on the subject of Year 11 Assessments. We previously wrote to you on 25 March providing you with a timetable of all planned assessments for the year group.

As you will be aware, our Year 11 pupils are currently completing mini-assessments in lessons and these will also continue after our Assessment Week, that commences on 7 May, during which assessments will move to the Sports Hall, Community Building and Denmark.

Our subject teams, led by our Heads of Department, have been finalising their individual rationales, outlining how decisions will be made about the grades that will be submitted to examination boards. Our intention is that information about these subject specific rationales will available via this link <https://www.kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk/gcse-grading-subject-rationales/> to our school website on or before 5 May.

I have also attached the attached JCQ document, 'Guidance for Students, Parents and Guardians: GCSEs and AS/A Levels in England Summer 2021' for your reference.

At this point, we want to check that we are aware of all pupils who may be subject to mitigating circumstances that may warrant special consideration when teachers review completed assessments.

Key reasons for Special Consideration being awarded are:

- temporary illness or accident/injury at the time of the assessment;
- bereavement at the time of the assessment;
- domestic crisis arising at the time of the assessment.

It is worth noting, however, that the following situations **do not** qualify:

- long term illness or other difficulties during the course affecting revision time, unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves at the time of the assessment;
- bereavement occurring more than six months before the assessment, unless an anniversary has been reached at the time of the assessment or there are on-going implications such as an inquest or court case.

Guidance from the Joint Qualifications Council (JCQ) states that 'As the range of evidence is flexible (this year) and can be tailored to an individual student...instances of special consideration should be limited. JCQ also makes it clear that 'only minor adjustments can be made' to a mark awarded (e.g. in *normal* years when examinations are taken, 5% for terminal illness of a parent /carer or 2% for illness at the time of the examination).

If you feel that your child's performance in any assessments mentioned in the subject specific rationales, that you will be able to access via the link above, have been impacted, for example, by

temporary illness, domestic crisis or bereavement, please do notify us by contacting Mrs Nicky Harris, Examinations Officer via n.harris@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk . In your communication, please give the name of your child, the reason you believe they should be considered for Special Consideration and the period for which they were affected. Please note that as per JCQ guidelines, Special Consideration may only be considered for 'temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside the candidate's control *at the time of the assessment.*' We request that any communications to us regarding assessments that have already been completed, reach us by Wednesday 12 May.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some initial information on the subject of potential appeals following the publication of GCSE results on 12 August. There is more detailed information in the attached JCQ document. However, OFQUAL has published the following summary information:

Appeals and results

- Students will be able to appeal their grade.
- A student who is unhappy with their grade will first ask their centre to check whether an administrative or procedural error has been made.
- Where a centre does identify an error in the grade submitted to the exam board, it can submit a revised grade and a rationale for the board to consider. If the exam board is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade.
- Where a centre does not believe an error has been made, a student can ask the centre to appeal to the exam board on their behalf. The centre will submit the student's appeal to the exam board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made; the exam board will consider whether, in its view, the grade reflected an appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If the exam board judges that it did not, the exam board will determine the grade that the evidence would support. The exam board will also check that the centre had followed its own process.
- Results days will be 12 August for GCSE results.

It is important to note that grades that are appealed may go up, stay the same or be moved down at either stage of the Appeal process.

I hope that the above information is useful; we will write to you again before the end of this half term with further information relating to arrangements for our Year 11 pupils. Please do not hesitate to contact one of the following staff, however, if you have any questions whatsoever:

- Mr Duckering or Mrs Harris – re overall assessment arrangements
- Mrs Wilde – re access arrangements
- Subject teachers or Heads of Subject – re subject specific queries

With many thanks for your continued support both of your child's education and Kings' School at this important time – it is hugely appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Jeckells

Deputy Headteacher