



# Brighouse High School

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Headteacher: Mr R. Horsfield, LLB, B.A (Hons)



18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Year 11 student and parent/carer,

## **Update on Year 11 grading process**

We are writing to confirm details of the grading process for Year 11 students. We appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest, so there is an email address at the end of this letter to which you can direct any questions. We will then be sharing a presentation via our website on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March to talk through the process and address any frequently asked questions that have been raised.

### National process

Following the Government's announcement that there will be no external examinations this summer, the Department for Education and the exam regulator Ofqual subsequently confirmed at the end of February that the national process for the awarding of grades will be as follows:

1. Teachers will assess students against a national standard, which will be defined by the exam boards by the end of March. Some exemplar assessment material will also be made available by that date.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be quality assured by the school. This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards. Schools must submit grades to the exam boards by 18<sup>th</sup> June.
3. School results will then be quality assured externally by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of the school's evidence.
4. If the exam boards are confident in the data submitted, then the exam boards will award students their final grades.
5. Results will be published on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Students can then submit an appeal to the exam board if they think the grade awarded is not a fair reflection of their work.

Teachers will only assess students on content they have been taught. This means students will not be disadvantaged if they individually, their whole class or whole year group have been unable to complete their full course because of the disruption caused by the pandemic. However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence a school has of students' performance, even if that evidence covers less of the course than usual.

### Our process in school

Since Ofqual's announcement at the end of February, our departments have been working hard to put in place a system that is robust, transparent and fair to students.

All departments have drawn together the evidence that we already have on each student's performance since the start of courses in Year 10. This evidence is drawn from some or all of the following;

- end of unit assessments
- mock exams
- coursework
- other assessed tasks

All of this evidence can be used to support the awarding of the final grades.

All departments have then produced a plan for the content that will be revisited in lessons over the coming weeks. Alongside this revision, departments are planning assessed tasks that will be completed in lessons in the four weeks from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> May. By putting in place a series of shorter assessed tasks instead of one longer exam, students will have several opportunities to show what they can do. We want to maximise the opportunities students have to produce their best work. Any access arrangements (eg extra time) will be catered for in these assessed tasks.

Over the coming days, students will be given the following information for every subject they study:

- Evidence that already exists that can be used.
- Content and skills that will be revisited over the coming weeks.
- The nature, scope and timing of assessed tasks that will take place in lessons in conjunction with the revision of content.

Exact details will differ from subject to subject, as doing the same in all subjects may not give students the best chance to shine, but we believe that the plans outlined will give students every chance to show what they can do.

Year 11 students should expect to be challenged and supported to work hard over the coming weeks; we need to stress that a really conscientious approach will be needed in order to fulfil potential. It is worth pointing out that normally at this time of year students in Y11 would be revising hard and completing questions from past papers in lessons. That is exactly what will be happening this year, but the advantage is that the work that students produce will have a direct impact on their final grade, rather than having to rely solely on performance in a terminal external examination.

The best thing students can do now is to continue to attend all lessons, focus fully on work, act on feedback from teachers and revise the topics covered. Grades will be based on performance, so continued hard work from this point onwards really will affect final results.

There will be a remote Parents' Evening for Year 11 students and parents/carers on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, so that you can talk to subject teachers and get a clear picture of progress to date and what still needs to be done. Further details about how to book appointments will be shared shortly.

The pre-recorded presentation on the website from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March will enable us to talk through the processes outlined above and address any frequently asked questions. If you do have any immediate questions about the way that grades will be awarded, please send an email to the following address: [grading@brighthouse.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:grading@brighthouse.calderdale.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Mr Richard Horsfield  
Headteacher