

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule



FAO: Parents & Carers of Year 11 Students

RE: GCSE Examinations & Grading 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, I am writing to clarify the current situation regarding GCSEs and the awarding of grades to Year 11 students in the summer of 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to our students in Year 11 for their positive response to announcements made this week. It will have been very difficult for them to firstly hear that they would not be returning to school as planned until **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** at the earliest and then that the GCSE examinations in their proposed format would not be taking place. Therefore, it was very pleasing to hear of the numbers engaging with their online learning as well as the enthusiasm and positivity they were demonstrating.

I can confirm that following the statement made by the Secretary of State for Education that the GCSE examinations will not take place in the summer. As of yet, there has been no confirmation of what will replace the examinations, only that there will be consultation between Ofqual (the exams regulator), the exam boards and the education sector. We will share details of the consultation with parents and carers as and when they become available.

At this time, I would encourage students not to worry about the latest statement and what will replace the GCSE examinations. I encourage students to continue to work hard, remain positive and engage with their online learning. If they follow this advice, the final grade they achieve will be a fair reflection of their performance in that subject over the last two years. I would like to reassure students and parents that no single piece of work, assessment or prior attainment would determine their final grade in a subject. As demonstrated in the GCSE grades awarded to our students last summer, the teachers at Denton Community College are skilled at using all the evidence available to ensure students receive the grades they deserve.

This start to 2021 is unsettling, but the current proposals for students in Year 11 means that there will be a level of fairness in how GCSE grades will be awarded. The most important message for Year 11 students this week is that their attainment this summer is still in their own hands. Hard work will be rewarded and their future is not yet written.

Once again, thank you for your continued support in the education of our students at Denton Community College.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Rule', is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Rule  
Headteacher