

15 March 2021



# Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer,

Below is an **overview** of how we will apply government guidance this year. Our guiding principles in the awarding of these grades are as follows:

- Judgements will be made using a range of evidence
- Ralph Allen should provide the best opportunities for students to succeed
- The process should be open and transparent
- The process should reflect the student's ability as demonstrated at Key Stage 5

## Year 13 examinations

A further Government consultation on examinations and the replacement arrangements closed last week. We hope further detailed guidance will be outlined soon.

Students will be given a number of opportunities to provide evidence for their final grade. No one piece of work will be used in determining a student's grade. It will be a combination of assessed work which will have taken place over the course of their A-levels.

- Formal assessments will take place in term 5. The first spring assessment will be in the week beginning 19 April.
- No further subject content will be taught from Monday 22 March. Lessons will be used to prepare students for their spring assessments.
- Full examinations access will be provided for their formal spring assessments.

## Assessments used

We are guided by offering the best opportunities for our students to succeed. To do this we will be using a broad range of evidence to support the grade. This includes:

- Student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers
- Non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed
- Student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes - This can include:
  - Substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
  - Internal tests taken by pupils
  - Mock exams taken over the course of study

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- records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as Music, Drama and PE

To confirm, **no one piece of evidence or examination will indicate the final grade for a student.** Each grade will be awarded from a number of pieces in each area. These will include formal assessments using unseen materials that will be provided by each examining board.

## Moderation

Each department will moderate the work in their subject and teachers will mark samples of each other's work. All decisions will be made with another member of staff and verified by the Head of subject.

## Results days

AS and A level - **Tuesday 10 August**

GCSE – **Thursday 12 August**

**UCAS** are working towards decisions being available on Tuesday 10 August for most students. (We are awaiting final confirmation here).

## Appeals

If a student is unhappy with their grade, they can do the following;

- Firstly, ask if a clerical error has been made.
- Discuss their concern with the exams and sixth form team.
- If no error has been made, they can ask the school to appeal on their behalf. This will involve showing the process and the evidence they used to make their judgement.
- If they are still unsuccessful an Autumn series will be available

## Final support

Examinations access support will be given to all eligible students for many of the assessments that will be used as evidence for their final grade. These will be in place for the formal Spring Assessments.

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At the end of this term, students will be given a current grade on recent work. This is not their final grade. The final grade will be calculated using a range of evidence over the two years. It will give our students an idea of their current working and what they might want to achieve in future assessments. As with previous centre assessed grades, can we remind parents that staff should not be put under pressure to amend grades or enquire about their actual final grade.

The wellbeing of our students is very important to us and the robust systems we will be using have considered their experiences through lockdown and the support they need for their final assessments. This process will be explained to students.

I have a meeting with all the secondary school Headteachers' tonight where we have agreed we will share our plans for a more consistent approach on when students will leave.

There will be more information to follow next week.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Greenhough'.

**Andy Greenhough**  
**Headteacher**

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