



# Brookfield Community School

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Our Reference: MR/GHR  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers/Students

## **Awarding of GCSE and A Level Grades – Summer 2021**

It has been wonderful to welcome students back to school this week, and for something approaching normality to return. Thank you for your support in this latest phase of the school year which, whilst important for all students, carries even more weight for students in Year 11 and 13.

Schools have now received guidance on how exam grades will be awarded this summer. I am writing to provide an update on the awarding of grades for our Year 11 and 13 students. At the end of this letter, I have included an infographic which summarises the national expectations and the rest of this letter explains how we will approach it at Brookfield.

### **How will grades be awarded this summer?**

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual, is as follows:

Teachers will assess students against a national standard

- Our results will be quality assured externally by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of our school's evidence to verify these grades
- Unlike last year, students' grades will not be changed by a formula
- If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, then the exam boards will award students their final grades

### **What evidence will be used?**

Teachers are able to draw on a range of assessment evidence from across a student's study of the course. This may include internal assessments, summative assessments, in-class tests, controlled assessments, practical work and/or marked class work. Different departments may use different sources of evidence, and there is no requirement for any one type of assessment to be used. Evidence may be from work completed before lockdown, as well as evidence from March – May 2021. Typically, evidence collected before and after Easter will involve shorter pieces of work that allow students to demonstrate their ability across the range of skills in that subject. A student's best work for each subject will be collated into an Evidence Portfolio that reflects the ability of each student in that subject.



### **What about loss of learning and impact of Covid?**

The tasks set for students to demonstrate their ability will only include content they have been taught. Due to the continued disruption to learning caused by the pandemic, students will not be disadvantaged if they have been unable to complete their full course.

### **Can students discuss their grades with teachers?**

Teachers will be able to discuss which evidence they are using to inform their judgement with students, including marked pieces of work. Teachers will not, however assign grades to individual pieces of work, but will instead assign a grade to the student's overall subject Evidence Portfolio when all work is completed.

We are also not allowed to disclose students' final submitted grades that we give to the exam boards. After submission of these grades exam boards will be responsible for awarding final grades. These will be released on results day.

### **What should students be doing now?**

Students should continue to attend lessons, act on feedback from their teachers, prepare for any assessment tasks and apply themselves fully in school. Departments will provide support and time in lessons to help students throughout this process and staff are working with all students to ensure they are fully informed of the steps being taken to secure these important final grades.

### **What are we doing to help?**

We are very conscious of student workload, especially as students return to school after an extended time working from home. Leaders and teachers are planning the best way to ensure that teaching and formative assessment is planned effectively in conjunction with any summative assessment to gather evidence for students' grades. Students will continue to have assemblies to explain and support them through the process. Teachers will work hard to ensure the right balance between learning, assessment and student wellbeing.

### **What is happening in school?**

In lessons, students will discuss their evidence portfolios with their teachers. Subject teachers will collate work that has been completed prior to and during lockdown that can also be used as part of this evidence base. Every student will have the opportunity to complete work to demonstrate their learning and understanding of their course content.

### **Results Days**

- A Level – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021
- GCSE – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

We are sure that students will continue to work hard and get the grades they deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support at this time and we will keep you updated. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Robinson  
Assistant Headteacher (Assessment and Curriculum)

## How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Graded by teacher judgement</li><li> Not graded by an algorithm</li><li> School and college assessments can continue</li><li> You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught</li><li> Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you</li><li> Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence</li><li> Non-exam assessment should continue</li><li> Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete</li><li> Art &amp; design grade based only on your portfolio</li><li> Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to</li><li> Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August</li><li> If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</li><li><p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a></li></ul>