

March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Following the publication of Ofqual's decisions regarding the approach for final grading of our Year 11 and 13 students this year, we are now in a position to share with you some of the key points, along with our response as a school.

Firstly, we would like to thank you all for your patience during what we know has been a time of great anxiety for both students and parents. The good news is that the Government and Ofqual have decided not to proceed with any form of 'algorithm' system, which caused so many problems for our students and staff last year, but to instead put their faith in school assessment.

Schools have been asked to use 'a range of evidence' to determine the most appropriate and fair grade to award to each child. You will naturally have many questions about exactly what this may look like and we are committed to keeping you all informed every step of the way. Attached with this letter, you will find a parents' guide to the 2021 grading process. We will also run an online parent information evening on Wednesday 10th March at 6pm as well as virtual assemblies for students.

Last year's process required us to predict what we thought students would have achieved by the end of the course, had exams taken place. This year, we are being asked to provide grades based solely on the evidence that we have gathered so far, plus that completed during the final weeks of the course. This means that assessments earlier in Year 11 or 13, including mock examination for Year 11, could be factored in, as well as assessments completed between now and June.

The attached guide gives further detail about the format for assessments over the coming weeks, however, please be assured that we will keep both students and parents up-to-date with the process throughout.

In terms of feedback received so far, we ran parents' evening and also sent out the first data drop earlier in the academic year. If you look through the data included on this document, it is likely that the final grade achieved will not be too far away from those outlined in the report. That said, we are planning more assessments to ensure that every student has the opportunity to demonstrate further progress between now and the end of the course.

Mock exams sat earlier in the course will not be used as the only indicator; equally assessments completed between now and the end of June will not be the only measure used. Staff will use all information that they have available to them to form as broad an evidence base as is possible. Staff will feedback on the outcome of assessments completed to students, however, at no point will any of us be able to discuss the final grade. It is important that parents and students do not ask or put pressure on teachers to discuss final grades as this could be considered exam malpractice.

There will be an information evening for parents at 6pm on Wednesday 10th March via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to submit a question ahead of the meeting, please send it to Exams2021@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk the link will be sent out via My Ed App.

In the meantime, we would encourage every single one of our students to work as hard as they can over the remaining weeks of their courses and we thank you for your continued support.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mason', with a wavy flourish at the end.

Ms N Mason
Head of School

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Cain', with a stylized, cursive style.

J. Cain
Deputy Headteacher