

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to update you on the school's arrangements for awarding grades for Year 11 and 13 this year.

Awarding Grades this Year

The Government have announced that this year teachers will assess the standard at which pupils are performing based only on what they have been taught so that schools can determine final grades. Teachers' judgements should be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that has been delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Each subject in the school will take a different approach to awarding pupil's final grade but the following principles will apply to all subjects at Barnhill.

- Each subject will use a range of different assessments, from across the 2 years of study, to calculate a student's grade. Work that is completed after Easter will be used to award the majority of the final grade (except in coursework based subjects).
- Students will be receiving clear guidance over the next week on what will be included in the assessments after Easter.
- Each subject will reduce the content of what will be examined to take into account the lost learning time experienced by pupils over their course.
- Any coursework that pupils have completed will continue to count towards the final grade in the normal way.

Supporting your child to achieve their best

I want to reassure parents that the school is committed to ensuring that students are given every opportunity to receive a grade which reflects his/her ability. To do this we will be following the following principles as a school:

- Very little new content will be taught in school up until Easter. This will allow revision to begin in earnest.
- Students will be given detailed revision tips and resources for the Easter holiday.
- Any assessments taken after Easter will be shorter than normal with reduced content compared to a normal year.
- Results this year will reflect the school's performance in recent years which have been very strong (top quintile of schools for progress at both KS4 and 5)
- All results will be moderated by more than one teacher to ensure fairness and consistency with quality assurance carried out by senior leaders and examiners within the school.

Appeals

A student unhappy with their grade would submit an appeal to the school or college, so that they could check whether an administrative error had been made. If a centre does find an error in the grade submitted, it can submit a revised grade for the board to consider. If a centre does not believe an error had been made, the centre will appeal to the exam board on the student's behalf, and will be supported to do so.

Please find below a useful Infographic outlining the key points from the process.

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

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Graded by teacher judgement  Not graded by an algorithm  School and college assessments can continue  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence  Non-exam assessment should continue  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August  If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <p style="background-color: #f8bbd0; padding: 10px; color: black;"> You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website  www.gov.uk/ofqual </p>

Students will receive more information about the exact assessments that are still to be carried out in the coming weeks but it is important that your child carries on working hard and preparing for future assessments as normal. Please do contact your child's head of year if you have any queries or questions about the process.

Yours sincerely,

Mehul Shah

Deputy Headteacher

