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Principal: Mr P. Swatton, B.Eng (Hons)

Date: 18th January 2021

Ref: PAS/TLS

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Consultation Regarding Examination Grades for Summer 2021

Further to my letter on Friday 15th January, The Department for Education (DfE) and the Office for Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) have now launched their consultation for the summer 2021 exam series. This can be accessed using the link below:

[GCSE, AS and A-level Consultation Document](#)

This consultation follows on from the Secretary of State's announcement last week that exams will not go ahead as normal this summer, and his statement that the Government will work with Ofqual and exam boards on alternative arrangements.

Here is an outline of some of the **proposals**:

- A student's grade in each subject will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing, using a combination of evidence that **might** include:
 - results from papers provided by exam boards, but set by teachers to take account of the curriculum content covered by students given the disruption to their learning in the last two academic years.
 - coursework or non-exam assessment (NEA) in subjects where it applies
 - other performance evidence such as formal tests, mock exam results and any other substantial work completed by students.
- All students can appeal if they don't believe their grade reflects the evidence of the standard at which they were performing.
- Students who aren't studying within a school or college must be able to receive grades, this would include students on alternative provision.

In terms of **timing**, the DfE and Ofqual are proposing that:

- students are assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June;
- teachers submit grades to exam boards by mid-June;
- external quality assurance is carried out by exam boards throughout June;
- results are issued to students after the quality assurance, most likely in early July.

The DfE and Ofqual say that students should be given time to complete their **non-exam assessments (NEA)**, as this will contribute to the evidence teachers use to determine their grades. They are proposing that the exam boards should give guidance on adjustments that could be made to the way non-exam assessments are completed, to account for current circumstances.

The DfE and Ofqual have also launched a consultation to look at which **Vocational, Technical, and other Qualifications** will need alternative arrangements and how those arrangements should work, this can be accessed here:

[Vocational and Technical Qualifications Consultation](#)

As stated in my email to you last week, we want to make sure that our students, who are studying for examinations this summer, receive the grades they deserve. While many of the proposals are broadly sensible and in line with what was presented in the news last week, the devil is always in the detail and it is important that we take some time to reflect on how this will work for our students. To help ensure that our students are treated fairly, especially given the disruption they have faced over the past year, we will be responding to the consultation ourselves and would urge you to do the same. You can respond to the consultation, regarding the GCSE examinations this summer, online, by using the link below:

[GCSE, AS and A-level Online Consultation Response](#)

Please note that **the consultation closes on 29th January 2021** at 11.45pm.

As always, the staff at the College are here to support you as we move through this crucial period. We will make sure that you are kept informed with regard to the outcomes of these consultations and what they mean for our students, as soon as we have further detail.

Yours sincerely

Mr. P. Swatton

Principal