

Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

You will have no doubt seen today's news announcement regarding examinations. There are no big surprises based on the previous information that was shared, but I wanted to write to you to let you know how we, as a school, will respond to the latest announcement.

Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers. Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests. No algorithm will be used. Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18th June 2021, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.

We will conduct multiple checks at both a school and trust level – such as checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed - to ensure as much fairness as possible when awarding grades.

At the same time, exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.

Every student will have the right to appeal their grade. We will be given more information on the appeals process in due course.

So, what does this mean for our wonderful NUSA students? It is now, more than ever, imperative that attendance is as close to 100% as possible. Teachers will be using lesson times to gather 'evidence' on student performance and as a result, every lesson missed is a missed opportunity to further improve a final grade.

Some students will be relishing the opportunity to show staff exactly how well they can do in lessons and will be excited to see their true potential realised.

Some students may be feeling that they haven't worked as hard as they could have to date, but now is not the time to bury our heads in the sand, it is time for the students to step up and show us what they are made of.

We have every faith that every child can leave us with the grades they fully deserve.

Results day for both NUSA16 and Year 11 have been brought forward to the week commencing 9th August 2021.

If your child is in Year 11, please remind them to join Mr James' Teams Bulletin at 3pm on Friday 26th February 2021 as he has some exciting news about Prom....

We will be providing more information on all of the above as and when we receive it but for now, we look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Take care,

Emma Howard
Head of School