



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

20th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

Following my letters earlier this month regarding the prospect of schools being required to submit centre assessed grades for students due to sit public exams this summer, I write to detail a distinction between last year's process and DfE & Ofqual proposals for how schools will determine recommendations this year.

Rather than predict what students would be likely to achieve had they sat exams, teachers will instead recommend grades informed by a breadth of evidence. I therefore assure students that work produced during this period will be considered, and must dispel any notion that their efforts prior to returning to school will not contribute towards their outcomes.

Proposals allow work produced closer to the deadline for submission of grades to be afforded greater weight. As I have previously noted, whether encouraged by their achievements or required to apply greater focus, students cannot regard current outcomes as definitive. Results are not decided now, and there is much time for improvement before recommendations are to be finalised.

It is therefore essential that students remain fully engaged with their learning, submit as much of their best work as possible, and apply the same application and focus they would display were they in school. This will provide teachers with the fullest range of evidence on which to base their recommendations.

Aware that these students have faced even greater disappointment and disruption than last year's, teachers will ensure assessment offers them every opportunity to demonstrate their best ability. This will allow us to present a fair and carefully considered judgement of the standards they achieve.

We await clarification, though the consultation includes the potential that as a complement to teacher recommendations, exam boards will issue papers to be sat in classrooms. Should this prove the case, it remains to be confirmed whether these would be marked by teachers and externally quality assured, or if marking would also be conducted externally.

Thank you for your continued support. There is currently no alteration to the Prime Minister's plan to ensure students are able to return after the half term break. We look forward to seeing them as soon as circumstances allow, and we continue to hold them and our whole community in our prayers.

Yours sincerely

Mr T. Coen

Headteacher

