



ST/KJP
1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen the recent announcements from the Government regarding examination grading. The information that was shared with you previously gave a strong indication of the planned approach so there are no big surprises. The guidance is also built on the response to the national consultation.

For each formal qualification that students were working towards they will be awarded grades by the school. This will be based on their overall performance in each subject area. There will be no formal examinations and schools have discretion over the broad evidence base used to decide on this final grade. Most importantly, the advice previously given to students to complete work to the best of their ability and continue to act on feedback, is still the route to securing the best possible grade. Over the coming weeks we expect to see more details around processes and timelines. The only definitive dates at present are:

- 18th June for school submission of grades to examination boards
- 10th August for the release of grades to Year 13 students
- 12th August for the release of grades to Year 11 students

There is no guidance yet on the final date that students are expected to finish school but we would anticipate that it would be no later than Friday 18th June. Once we have received guidance from the examination boards and had time to discuss the detail in school, we will be in a position to share planned processes with students and parents. In addition, the academy will follow the guidance set out from Ormiston Academy Trust's approach to awarding grades for 2021. After the return of students to face-to-face teaching we will also have more detailed discussions directly with students in school. For Year 11 and Year 13 students we will continue to offer career and destinations advice throughout the Summer term to ensure that they are aware of their choices.

There will be a change of timings for the end of the school day for Year 11 from Monday to Thursday until after the Easter break. They will finish school at 3.20pm on these days as we are temporarily suspending period 6 until after Easter. On a Friday Year 11 will still finish at 2.40pm. The period 6 session will resume from week beginning 19th April. We should know more detail about what is required by the exam boards after Easter and therefore can plan to effectively use this additional time to support and prepare students. We will be using the 20-minute form tutor time from 3.00pm Monday to Thursday to support the students' next steps with structured careers advice and guidance on how to secure their chosen destinations.

We are confident that the method announced is the best way to approach grading for our students this summer. We expect that we will have the opportunity to fairly award grades based on evidence and by taking into account all the circumstances for individual students and subjects.

We look forward to welcoming students back in to school and supporting them through the coming months, including the transition to the next phase of their education, training or employment.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW | **Principal:** Stuart Turnbull

Telephone: 01922 685777 | **Email:** postbox@scacademy.co.uk | **Website:** www.scacademy.co.uk



@OrmistonShelfield



@ShelfieldCA



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