

18th January 2021

To: Parents, Carers and Students of Year 11 and Year 13

Dear Parent / Carer and Student

I am writing to you to make you aware that on January 15th the DfE and Ofqual launched a joint consultation on how GCSE, A level, BTEC and any other externally awarded qualification should be awarded this summer.

These consultations can be accessed online by following this web link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-launched-on-2021-exam-replacement> .

Everyone is invited to respond so please take some time to read the proposals and share your opinions on them using the online submission option.

The most important piece of information that can be extracted from this consultation process is that any work that any student is currently completing will contribute directly to their final grade they are awarded. For BTEC subjects any assignments will be directly linked to their final outcome and for GCSE and A levels there **will** be a final summative assessment for each course that is very similar to an external exam.

Although the final outcome of the consultation is not yet decided; it is clear that these assessments will be similar in style to the mock exams that were sat in the autumn term and based on past paper questions of which many examples are available online.

Our immediate concern is that our students do not feel disheartened or concerned by this news. They still need to work hard and focus on their studies. At the point of return, we may well run a number of examination series which will help staff in the academy reach a judgement on grades that will be awarded. All students have a full timetable of remote learning. These cover the exact same curriculum content that would have been covered had they been in the academy. It has never been more important to keep going – every piece of work counts!

I would be grateful if parents could avoid contacting any teachers regarding possible grades and assessments. Until there is absolute clarity as to how assessment will work all we can do, students, parents and staff, is continue to support and motivate as we navigate these difficult times.

Every student has received support and training on how to revise, which techniques to use and where to access materials and past paper questions. For anyone who wants to begin preparing reviewing these would be the best place to start. Once the consultation has concluded and the system is published we will provide a comprehensive preparation package to ensure every student has access to key resources and the techniques to use them.

As we progress through this third lockdown, we need to remember the capacity of our young people to adapt and endure is actually limitless. Together we will get through the next few weeks and we will make sure students receive the grades their work deserves.

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If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact me on simpsonbk@westlakesmat.org.uk

Yours faithfully,



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Vice Principal

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