



8th January 2021.

Dear Parent,

I am sure you will have heard the announcement that it won't be possible for all exams to go ahead as normal this summer and that the Government will work with Ofqual and exam boards on alternative arrangements.

It has now been confirmed that students will receive GCSE grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance using classwork, homework, coursework, trial exam results, assessments and other forms of supporting evidence. I would urge you to consider these five points, as they should provide some reassurance:

1. **Students' hard work will be recognised.** The effort students have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will not be wasted, predicted grades can still change.
2. **Any system used to award grades will be fair and balanced.** Grades will be awarded based on a wide range of objective evidence. Any grade issued/set by a teacher and centre will be moderated carefully to ensure they are consistent within and between schools
3. **Learning must continue.** This is not only for schools to award GCSE grades but also to prepare students for their next stage of learning, if they don't keep up the effort their teacher prediction could decrease and they'll also be unprepared for their next level of education.
4. **Further school assessments will take place.** The curriculum will still be fully covered in all subjects, whether that is online or face-to-face. We still plan to assess students through a trial exam process when they return to school. This will form another piece of evidence towards Centre Assessed Grades. Whilst accessing remote learning, students will still be asked to complete subject specific tests and/or exam questions, all of this will be used as evidence.
5. **Keeping to a routine is important.** This matters both in terms of wellbeing and will be essential in preparing students for their future career plan.

I am aware of the shock and disappointment the news regarding the cancellation of exams may have brought, and we also know that this is a difficult time for students, parents and carers. Our message to students is to continue to engage fully in their education. This will put students in the best position. It is important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to allow students to progress to the next stage, whether that is college or an apprenticeship.

For now, it is essential that students attend all online live lessons and complete the work set, remembering that every piece of work completed could still make a difference to their overall grade.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions please email me on sgeary@leesbrook.co.uk or contact the school on 01332 671723.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Geary
Director of Achievement