



An All-through Co-operative School
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29th January 2021

Dear Families,

Re: GCSE and Vocational Exam Grades 2021

You will be aware of the government's announcement that GCSE and Vocational examinations will not take place in the usual way. All schools across the country have yet to be informed as to how the students' grades will be calculated, but we have been reassured that exam boards will be supporting and quality assuring the process to ensure consistency and fairness.

The media have been unhelpful in how this has been reported. *We are using a **range** of assessment evidence across both Year 10 and 11 covering the breadth of the curriculum to inform the grade at which a student is performing. These grades **will most likely be** supported by **externally set exams written by the exam boards**. At this point we are still finalising the actual process once further information from DfE /Ofqual becomes available this will be shared.*

*It is therefore important that your child continues to work hard, submit work of high standard, attend all lessons, as well as complete all formal current and future assessments to the best of their ability, in order to ensure there is a very strong evidence base for their grades which will be submitted to the exam boards. These grades **will not** simply be grades given solely by the teacher. There will be a number of staff involved in the process, as well rigorous checks and moderation both internally and externally through the exam boards.*

Students must also continue to work through the curriculum for each subject to support the development of their knowledge and skills and their preparedness for the next steps in their lives.

I shall be writing to you again at the beginning of March, when schools will have received more clarification and guidance on the process for grades submissions. In the meantime, please speak with your child about maintaining their excellent attendance to their lessons, consistent submission of their work and thorough preparation for all of their assessments for the remainder of the year.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Taylor
Head of School
Preston Manor School