
Rob Pavey - Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers

There has been some disquiet reported to us about what is happening with RE GCSE this summer, with some students being unsure about whether they will get a grade. For the purposes of RE GCSE, Year 10 counts as an exam year, so all the letters and announcements relating to exam years also refer to Year 10 RE.

This means that Year 10 students entered for RE (there are some who are not entered for one reason or another) will get a grade this summer, and this grade will be based on teacher assessments. We do not yet know exactly how these will be calculated, but we are expecting detail from the Department for Education before long. In one way or another, the grade will be moderated externally, and is likely to take into account as full a range of evidence as possible, including:

- Mock results.
- Assessments and unit tests.
- Classwork.
- Homework.
- Grades recorded by teachers.

The final grade will not rely on any one thing and is not necessarily the same as the mock grade. What students (and parents) can do now is:

- Don't panic.
- Join all lessons online.
- Do all work set to the best possible standard.
- Keep copies of work, especially marked work.
- Attend any extra sessions or interventions that are laid on.
- Know that all work contributes to a better grade, without the uncertainty of what may be on the exam.

Now is therefore the best possible time to engage fully in lessons. Despite this, I know that there will be a small handful of students who won't listen to this message: we cannot give

good grades without good evidence. This year more than ever before, poor engagement will lead directly to poor outcomes.

We will do catch-up mocks for the handful of students who missed the December mock on return to school if it is sensible and possible. This depends on a range of things which are unknowable at this stage, including the course of the pandemic, and the guidance on awarding grades from the DfE. Students should not worry about it, but should just carry on with their normal learning. We will give as much warning and information as we can in advance, and we will only do the mocks if it is in students' interest to do so. It is also possible that there will be some centrally produced assessments made available by the exam boards to help determine grades. This was an idea that was aired in the consultation on exams in January; if these happen, they are likely to be in the summer term and are likely to be very much under our control, and not exams by the back door. Again, we will give students as much warning and information as possible, without cheating, in order to allow our students to give us evidence to support the best possible grade.

I'm afraid I cannot give any more clarity than that at the minute, but we will be in touch again as soon as we know more. In future communications, please remember that information for exam years also applies to Year 10 RE.

Kind regards

Rob Pavey

Headteacher