



7th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing to you following the statement given to Parliament by Gavin Williamson yesterday afternoon, and confirmed by DfE yesterday evening. The paragraph below is taken directly from the Department for Education press release yesterday.

GCSEs and A Levels will not be going ahead as planned in the summer. The exams regulator, Ofqual, will launch a consultation on the options for alternatives to the exams to ensure every young person gets a fair grade for their work. Ofqual will work with the Department for Education, exam boards and members of the education sector to plan for the very best option. The expectation is that teacher assessment will be part of the process. Training and support will be provided to teachers to ensure that grades are awarded fairly and consistently.

We have no further detail as to what the assessment process or the awarding of grades will actually look like yet, but I would like to reassure you that, when we are invited to contribute to the consultation, we will work hard to ensure that we insist on a 'fair' process.

Since September, Summer 2021 examinations have been a topic for detailed discussion with all of your teachers and leaders in the school. Your teachers have worked hard to ensure that there have been assessment windows in which they have tracked your progress and performance regularly. This will not stop now. It is only January and there is plenty of time left this year for your teachers to gather evidence of your understanding and achievement. Your courses have not finished yet and I urge you to continue to work hard, learn the content and submit work that shows you at your best.

GCSE and A level subject content is preparation for further study and the world of work. It is important that you focus on your current learning and future aspirations.

Your teachers will be looking to secure a consistent evidence base of your performance to support them in whatever role they have in the grade awarding process later in the year. As tempting as it may be, please don't ask them about the awarding of grades. You can, of course, continue to have a rolling dialogue about your performance and how to best improve.

I know that many of you have lived with significant anxiety and stress regarding your education and academic performance since school sites were closed last March. It would be easy for me to say, don't worry. I know that you will, but I want to remind you that all that we do in school is student centred. Your outcomes, personally and academically, remain our priority and we will do all that we can to ensure that your future opportunities will reflect the hard work that you have put in over many years.



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We are extremely proud of you all and I am sure that I speak on behalf of our staff when I say that it is the students at Piggott that make our job so rewarding. We are missing you. Don't lose heart. Speak to us and we will help you. Whilst the site is shut, please know that you can contact us and we are still here for you. More than ever, log in to your lessons, engage with your learning and when you can, perform well and show your teachers what you can do.

We are sending you all our best wishes. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help or support. We are here for you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Alexander
Deputy Headteacher



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