

# IDSALL SCHOOL

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## Parent/carer update on exams

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following further guidance over the weekend, we are now in a position to confirm the changes for students taking examinations this year. You know that all A Level and GCSE exams this coming summer have now been cancelled, and vocational qualifications which are BTEC and OCR Nationals for Idsall students will continue where they are able to.

For vocational qualifications, this means units or modules which can take place will continue. If they are cancelled by the exam board or the school, there will either be an opportunity in the summer term to re-sit, or teacher assessments will be used instead with the exam regulator's approval.

For GCSE and A Levels exams, centre assessment grades will be submitted and these will be based on a combination of factors. These will include:

- Any teacher-assessed pieces of work. This is evidence of students' work which has already been completed as it is needed to support each grade
- Any mock, year 10 or unit/modules examinations taken over the two year course
- External units or exams which have already been taken and
- Any further assessments which can be completed between now and the end of July. This will include, where possible, the second series of mock exams which are due to be taken in March. However, these exams may have to be put back to a later date depending on when the exam board request centre assessment grades, any grade boundary changes which we are made aware of, any content changes to the syllabuses, and any other changes that the government or exam board make which we will need to respond to.
- We believe the government are currently discussing some mini tests with Ofqual, to be set by the exam boards, which students will need to complete.

Please note that individual teachers do not award students' grades; they are based on the assessment criteria explained.

Students will also need to complete any outstanding course work to the highest possible standard, and ensure they are clear on what grade they are currently working at and what they need to do to achieve their target grades, or improve on their current grade.

Teachers will want to award the best grades possible, but they can only do so if the evidence around attendance, completion of work and positive engagement in lessons allows it.

What is really important at this present time is that all students engage fully with the online learning on offer, continue to revise the course content for all of their subjects and, where possible, they do their best in all work which is marked and assessed by the teacher. All of these assessments are moderated for

accuracy and often marked by another specialist to ensure a consistent, non-biased assessment grade is gained in line with the exam board requirements. They are also blind marked – this means that papers are marked without the teacher or assessor knowing who the individual student is.

We know this is a very difficult and worrying time for our students and we want to reassure them that we will do everything possible to ensure they are ready for assessments. We want to gain as much knowledge as possible on their ability, and use the methods available to us to ensure all of their grades are awarded correctly and they are appropriately moderated both internally and externally where possible, offering a consistent and evidenced grade at the time of entry to the exam boards.

We know our students well. We already hold lots of assessment data on each student and know how hard they have been working, especially with their commitment to session six lessons this academic year; these have been a real success. We also have evidence from modules/units and assessed pieces which students have already completed from the start of the courses in year 10 and year 12.

We strongly encourage all students to keep studying and do their best in every subject.

For those students in year 11, if you are interested in applying to Idsall School Sixth Form, please remember to apply before the end of January. More information is available on this web link:

[Idsall School - Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening](#)

For year 13 students, the sixth form team is still here to support your applications to university and apprenticeships.

Keep safe and well; we look forward to welcoming all students back to school as soon as we can.



Ms M King

Headteacher