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**Ofqual GCSE, AS and A Level consultation 2021**  
**Ofqual Vocational and Technical Qualifications consultation 2021**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Student/Parent/Carer

I hope this letter find you safe and well.

You will be very aware of the attention surrounding the examinations and grades for this summer and will be wanting to know how final GCSE, A level and Technical and Vocational qualifications will be awarded.

The Office for Qualifications (Ofqual) and the Department for Education have put forward proposals and are seeking the views of students, parents/carers and teachers before the consultations close at **11.45pm on Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**. Both documents are quite long but it is worth giving the time to read those that are most relevant to you and taking the opportunity to give your own views. We will, of course, be responding as a school.

In recent weeks, the government announced that pupils would not be sitting exams as in previous years. This did not mean, however, that there would be no forms of assessment and the focus for this year seems to be different from last year. The emphasis is now being placed on a student's current performance (in late May/early June) rather than the grade reflecting what the student would have achieved were it not for the pandemic.

Although there will be no national examination timetable the proposal is that students will sit formal exams based on past papers set by the examination boards. The documents also mentions the need for teachers to use other evidence which we anticipate will include coursework, mock examinations and other assessments although this is not clear and we do not know how historical the evidence will be.

Executive Principal – Mr S. Baragwanath BSc (Hons)

A summary of how the exams this year will differ from previous years (excluding 2020) can be found on page 27 onwards for GCSE, AS and A Levels.

The consultation for vocational and technical qualifications is also seeking to address the issue where exams have been withdrawn or where learners have not been able to take exams. This consultation will be of interest to those students who study for BTEC examinations and Cambridge Nationals where exams are taken in January and also in the summer months. It will also be of interest for learners who study Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Pipework, Electrical, Motor Vehicle and Construction.

The consultations can be found at the following links:

GCSE, AS and A Level:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Vocational and Technical Qualifications:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-alternative-arrangements-for-the-award-of-vtqs-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021>

The following article in Schools Week might provide you with a useful summary of the proposals.

The papers contain many questions and answers and your responses can be put forward by clicking on the links at the start of each documents on page 6 or 7.

You are invited, with your son(s)/daughter(s), to respond to these consultations and to take the opportunity to give your own views. Please do note that these are proposals and final details will be released later in the year. Teachers will also need to receive training as part of the process.

As a school we do not know what will be expected in terms of evidence. It is therefore important that your child(ren) ensure that they are engaging in all tasks and learning that is expected of them. The completion of any assessments or written tasks will ensure that staff are able to provide any evidence that may be required.

I should like to remind you that both consultations close on Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 11.45pm. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



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Principal

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