



Friday 27 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Trust response to parents/carers of Y11 students - GCSE exams

Since the Department for Education (DfE) announced that the 2020 GCSE exams will not take place in the summer, we are aware that many students in Year 11 and their parents/carers are seeking reassurance about the way in which grades will be awarded this summer. As a Trust, we currently only know what has been released by the Government.

We expect the DfE to publish detailed information about the process and timetable for awarding GCSE grades during the week commencing 30 March. This will include the steps that teachers will need to follow and more detailed guidance on the full range of evidence they will need to consider when submitting teacher assessment grades.

It is expected that this information will include clear guidance about how teachers should carry out this process fairly and robustly. We anticipate that it will include using a range of evidence, such as students' mock exam performance and non-exam assessment, and that the exam boards will combine this information with other relevant data, including students' prior attainment from primary school, to produce a calculated grade for each student.

The DfE are currently talking to teaching representatives to make sure that what is being planned is manageable and appropriate so that students, parents, carers and teachers can have confidence in the approach.

Ofqual has said that it will aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's Year 11 students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

If pupils do not believe the correct process has been followed then they can appeal. In addition, if they don't feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, pupils can also sit their exams at the earliest reasonable opportunity once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

Teaching staff within all Trust schools have not begun to start this process yet as they are awaiting further information and guidance from the DfE. In the meantime, we kindly request that parents/carers refrain from contacting school to request further information. At the moment all effort is on maintaining remote learning and remaining open for the small number of vulnerable or key worker students each day.

We want to reassure Year 11 students waiting for news that we are doing everything we can to make sure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr T Eastaugh**  
Principal

Vale of York Academy  
Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton (Without),  
York YO30 6ZS  
Tel: 01904 560000  
Email: [hello@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@voy.hlt.academy)  
[www.valeofyorkacademy.org](http://www.valeofyorkacademy.org)