

8 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Awarding GCSE grades

I hope this finds you well.

Today we have seen the return of our Year 11 students back into the classroom for face-to-face lessons.

Following the recent government announcement that teachers will, based upon a variety of evidence from throughout the GCSE course, decide their students final grades. Teachers can use evidence from the whole of the GCSE course but should determine the grade as late as possible before submitting to the exam boards.

I hope the information overleaf will help to answer some of the many questions that you may have.

Overall, I believe teachers are in the best position to know the grades which their students are working at and we will continue to strive to work with all our students to achieve their potential despite the disruption to their education. We will support every student at St. Michael's to move successfully onto the next stage in their education and training so that they can anticipate the future with confidence and hope.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Keough
Headteacher

Will there be exams in school?
There will be assessments on the course content delivered to students and these assessments will be much shorter than usual. Final assessments will be used alongside classwork, coursework and homework as evidence before submitting to the exam boards.
Will coursework count even if I cannot finish it?
Yes, where parts of the course are incomplete it will still count.
Will the grades be checked?
Yes, all submitted grades will be moderated within the Trust to ensure they are fair, accurate and reliable.
Can I discuss my child's grades with teachers?
You are not allowed to discuss your child's grades with any members of staff this is because there has to be all avoidance of bias in awarding the grades.
How will schools be stopped from giving out inflated grades?
All schools will be subject to scrutiny by the exam boards who will put in place arrangements to check each school's process and to sample some centres in order to review the evidence for one or more subjects. Schools will be expected to provide evidence that the grades are accurate and the Headteacher will have to sign a declaration to give assurance that the evidence has been checked.
When will my I receive the results?
There will be an official results day on Thursday 12 August 2021.
If I do not agree with a grade can I appeal?
Yes. It will be possible to appeal a grade but the exam board will need evidence from the work produced through the year.
If my child have access arrangements if they are entitled to them?
Yes. All assessments in school will be supported where this need has been identified by the SENCo
Will one assessment give the final grade?
No. Teachers will use a range of evidence to give a holistic judgement of the grade.