



# THE COMPTON SCHOOL

National Teaching School

*"Outstanding" Ofsted*

9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Parents

## **Re: Decisions on how GCSE, AS, A level and vocational grades will be determined in summer 2021**

At the end of February, the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual published the outcome of a consultation on how GCSE, A level and vocational grades should be awarded in the summer of 2021, which can be viewed at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964597/6747-1\\_decisions\\_-\\_GQ\\_consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964597/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf),

### **Presentation- explaining the process**

We have also produced a short presentation which we would like you and your child to view. We will also go through key points with students during PDT this week.

The link to the presentation is here, please take the time to watch all of this with your child to help you understand the process: <https://youtu.be/aJh2rses2Io>

### **Summary of initial key details**

The consultation was undertaken, following the closure of schools to most students to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, and the decision that exams cannot go ahead as normal this summer.

Following the decision to cancel examinations, it has been confirmed that this year examination boards will be asking teachers and schools, who know students best, to use their judgement to assess what has been learned and to determine student grades. The arrangements being put in place will only take account of what students have been taught, not what they have missed, making it no harder overall for this year's students to receive a particular grade than students in previous years.

We wanted to highlight some of the initial key details to students and parents. Extracts from the Department for Education's update can be read below:

*'Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests. No algorithm will be used.'*

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*'Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18 June, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.'*

*'Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week of 9th August – moved forward from the week of the 23 August.'* **(10<sup>th</sup> August for A level and 12<sup>th</sup> August for GCSE)**

*'To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.'*

*'Students studying vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) that are often taught alongside GCSEs and A levels on one or two year courses, and used for university or college places, will also receive grades assessed by teachers rather than sitting exams.'*

*'Schools, colleges and other educational settings will conduct multiple checks – such as checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed - to ensure as much fairness as possible.'*

*'At the same time, exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern'*

*'Every student will have the right to appeal their grade'.*

As you can see from the above, further information about the range of evidence, data, and methodology to be used by schools to submit fair and accurate grades will follow with the publication of guidance from examination boards in due course. We will review this and subsequent guidance from all examination boards fully, before embarking upon the subsequent submission of any student data.

We will, of course, continue to be in touch with all students and parents with further updates. We are expecting more information about the actual process by the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Please be reassured that we will continue to support our students over the coming months, to prepare for and complete any further assessments required. Students are encouraged to remain fully engaged with their studies, at this time and on their return to school.

I would also like to thank you and your child for their cooperation during the lateral flow testing periods. Students have been exceptional: mature, calm and punctual to their appointments.

Thank you for your continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely



**Ann Marie Mulkerins**  
Headteacher