

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

## THE AWARDING OF GRADES – SUMMER 2021

We have been delighted to welcome back our Year 11 students this term. We were very pleased with the level of application shown throughout lockdown and they have returned this week with a settled and focused attitude.

As you know, examinations were cancelled for this Summer 2021. The government and Ofqual released [initial guidance](#) regarding the awarding of grades this summer. Their second consultation closed on 11<sup>th</sup> March and there have been two further announcements on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. Further information can be found on the [Ofqual](#) website. I want to take this opportunity to update you on what this means for students and share our next steps.

### What is the situation now?

- Students returned to face-to-face teaching in the week of 15<sup>th</sup> March and subjects continue to teach in order to ensure that students are adequately prepared for next stage of their education.
- Students will be required to sit internal assessments by 7<sup>th</sup> May in most subjects and in accordance with exam board guidance, which we await. As soon as we have more information, we will share more detailed plans.
- The assessments will vary in length according to subjects and will play an important role when we consider students' final grades.
- We will communicate the evidence on which grades will be based to students and parents as soon as it is made clear to us by the exam boards.
- The school will take into account a wide range of evidence: NEA assessments, class tests, classwork and homework, and assessments and classwork from now to the end of the course.

### What does this mean for students?

- All students must continue to work hard and complete all work set up to the end of their time at school.
- Teachers will continue to set and assess work intended to support what they know about the standard students are working at.
- Students should focus on using feedback from teachers to make progress. Teachers will use the criteria for each course to help students understand how to keep improving.
- Teachers will not comment on a likely overall final grade whilst individual pieces of work are being assessed over the next few months.
- Teachers will only be able to assess for a final grade at the end of the course. Once decided, the grade cannot be provided to students as we are subject to strict exam board regulations.

### Last day of term for Year 11

- We are conscious that parents and students are keen to know the date from which they are no longer required to attend school. Under normal circumstances, students are not required to attend school

after the end of their final exam and return to school to hand over school property, with a formal leaving date of 30<sup>th</sup> June.

- This year, staff have to assess and mark students' work before providing a centre assessed grade and all of this must be completed by 11<sup>th</sup> June. We will review our plans in line with exam board information and will communicate further as soon as we can.

### Results day

- Results day for GCSE is **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

### Next steps

- We will communicate with you shortly regarding key dates once we know more from the exam boards and will then create a frequently asked questions page on our website.
- Please do email with [enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org](mailto:enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org) any questions you would like us to include. Meanwhile, we will continue to update and support students during lessons.

Please be aware that the examination boards have made it clear that staff cannot share grades with students before results days, and parents and students should not attempt to influence the grades that are awarded. Please trust us to put a fair process in place to support students during these challenging times.

We are mindful of the challenge we face to look after the wellbeing of our young people, and the requirements placed upon us to set up a process that is fair, objective and robust. We will be writing to you again with some more details regarding the assessments for this term once we have received further exam board guidance.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Reynolds  
Principal