



14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### RE: Exams update

I hope this letter finds you well? I promised in my previous letters to you that I would keep you fully informed of developments, in relation to exams and assessments as they became available to me. Yesterday, initial details were released by the Department of Education of an outline of suggested approaches for assessment of Year 11 and 13 students that will be put forward for consultation. In summary, these suggestions include:

- An affirmation that teacher's judgement of students' grades will be sought.
- This judgement must be backed by a wide variety of evidence.
- It is likely that some of this evidence will be derived from externally set assessments. It is very likely that these will be in the form of mini-assessments or exams that are internally sat, marked and then moderated both internally and externally.
- Quality Assurance will be done internally by school leaders **AND** also externally by the exam boards.
- There will be no algorithm as used initially in determining grades last year
- The date for submission of grades by schools will be made as late as possible.
- Grades should be derived from content taught and not from the entire course.
- Vocational qualifications such as Cambridge Nationals and BTEC's, will be awarded in a similar manner to GCSE or A-Level qualifications.
- The deadline for UCAS submissions has been pushed back and the documents linked below have affirmed that the Universities Minister has pledged to ensure that Universities are not oversubscribed.

Now we know this, can I be absolutely clear that it is imperative that students keep working. Whilst exams are not running in the usual way, students may be assessed on elements of the work that their teachers have set them to do in whatever method of assessment is used.

Please find links to the documents I have summarised:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/951797/Letter from Gavin Williamson to Simon Lebus.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951797/Letter_from_Gavin_Williamson_to_Simon_Lebus.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/951778/SL to SOS 2021-01-13.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951778/SL_to_SOS_2021-01-13.pdf)

Please be aware that these are only broad proposal guidelines at the moment and will be going through a consultation process and are subject to change.

We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that students have the best quality of provision possible and that they are well supported over their final months at The Garibaldi School.

Thank you for your continued support and as soon as we know any more we will again get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Aldred', written over a horizontal line.

Mr J Aldred  
Head of School