

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement that public examinations were to be cancelled this summer, the body that oversees all qualifications – Ofqual - consulted with schools, pupils and parents. Following the consultation the initial guidance has now been issued to schools on the procedures to follow to award grades to pupils in 2021 for GCSEs, A Levels & Vocational qualifications.

The following link sets out the guidance provided by the government:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=2568affc-1ccd-40cf-af75-2e775650b1a2&utm\\_content=immediately](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=2568affc-1ccd-40cf-af75-2e775650b1a2&utm_content=immediately)

The guidance does state that schools should base their judgements on what pupils have been taught and should use evidence already produced by pupils in addition to work completed over the coming weeks. The evidence that can be used to come to a holistic overall judgement are many and varied. They include but are not limited to: work completed in class, assessments undertaken, Pre-Public Examination (PPE) results and coursework completed where this is a component of a subject.

I would like to reassure you that we will be following a thorough plan to ensure that all pupils receive the grades that they would have achieved and no pupil will be put at a disadvantage due to the cancellation of the summer examinations. I would request that while we work through our plan that if you have any queries please direct them to [qualificationsquery@smithillsschool.net](mailto:qualificationsquery@smithillsschool.net) where a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be happy to answer any questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise that we will not be undertaking any further PPEs. Our advice to all pupils is to continue engaging in all of your lessons, complete all work set and we will offer each pupil more specific guidance as and when this becomes available.

Yours faithfully



M. Sidebottom