

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Thursday 25 February 2021, the Government announced its plans for the awarding of qualifications in summer this year. The aim of the guidance is to enable robust and fair processes to be employed within schools and by the Examination Boards, resulting in students and pupils attaining the grades that they deserve and are appropriate for progression pathways in education or employment. Whilst some of the details to give precise next steps await further guidance from the Examination Boards, I thought you would appreciate a summary of the current position regarding assessment, considering the cancellation of examinations for this cohort of young people.

The topics covered are:

- Headlines
- GCSEs and A-Levels
- Vocational Qualifications
- Next Steps
- Key Dates

Headlines

- There will be no traditional examinations in A-Levels, GCSEs, or Vocational qualifications.
- The expectation is that schools will do all they can to cover the required subject content.
- Students and pupils should have their grades determined by the standard of their work.
- Schools will submit grades by 18th June 2021.
- Schools will be able to share with students and pupils evidence behind grade decisions, such as mini-test scores, but not the final grades until they are published in August.
- Students and pupils with health conditions and circumstances that compromise their attainment can have reasonable adjustments made in line with a normal year.
- There will be quality assurance stages within the school and applied by Examination Boards to promote a consistent approach to determining grades.
- There will be an Appeals process, firstly at school level to check for errors and that processes have been adhered to. Secondly the school can submit an appeal to the Examinations Board on the candidate's behalf. Grades could go up or down, and any adjustments will be entirely based on supporting evidence for the grade, not on differences of opinion.

GCSEs and A-Levels

The school will be submitting grades based on Teacher Assessments which can be drawn from a range of evidence, including assessment materials provided by the Examination Boards (available to schools by the end of March and used in lessons at times decided by Departments) and set internally from banks of past paper questions, essays, and NEAs (non-examined assessments).

The expectation is that whilst judgments are only made on content taught, assessments will be based on as much course content as possible.

Subjects will be supporting students and pupils to complete as much of the NEAs as possible. Examination Boards will provide further guidance on assessing partially completed coursework.

Vocational Qualifications

There will be no further examinations.

Internally assessed units should be completed as far as possible.

Examination Boards will give specific advice about each qualification about how adjustments can be fairly made in awarding grades.

Next Steps

Further clarification from Examination Boards, including the externally set assessment materials that will be available, will be needed for departments to finalise their assessment models. Departments will then share key content that will be assessed and a testing schedule.

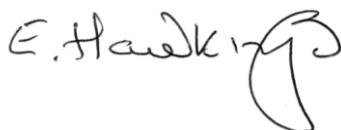
Examination Boards providing subject specific detail on NEAs and Vocational qualifications enabling departments to provide clarity on how partially completed work can be assessed fairly.

Key Dates

18 th June 2021	Deadline for schools to submit grades to Examination Boards.
10 th August 2021	A-Level results published to students.
12 th August 2012	GCSE results published to pupils. Vocational subjects to be released on or before this date.

Please be assured that Sweyne Park will continue to support students, pupils and their families with education in these challenging circumstances. As a school we continue to consistently strive to enable the young people we educate to lead happy and successful lives both now and in the future.

Kind regards



Ed Hawkings
Assistant Headteacher i/c Examinations

