

January 8, 2021

Year 11 Newsletter

Online Learning

We have been delighted with students' approach to online learning this week. Attendance and participation have both been excellent.

GCSE Cancellation Summary

- 2021 GCSE, AS and A level examinations are cancelled but BTEC exams are proceeding
- They will be replaced by 'a form of teacher assessment grades'
- Unlike last year, there will be no algorithm applied to grades provided
- Training and support will be provided 'to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently across the country'
- These plans still need to be 'fine-tuned'
- No timeline for this process has yet been agreed but a consultation will begin next week and last for two weeks

Appraisal Reports

We have today sent out the latest Appraisal Report for students. This should give students a good idea of their current position. The predicted grades reflect teachers' professional judgement of students' likely attainment. These judgements are based on the knowledge of the student, their work and effort, as well as their mock performance. These were calculated before the government announcement on teacher assessed grades made on January 6, 2021, therefore, **THEY ARE NOT** the teacher assessed grades that we will submit to the examination boards. When the teacher assessment process has been agreed by the examination boards, we will let you know the basis on which final grades will be calculated.

How will Teacher Assessed Grades be calculated?

- No one knows yet!
- Consultation being launched by OFQUAL next week which will last two weeks. Therefore, we will know in February.
- It is likely to be based on previous work and an assessment/test yet to be set.
- Grades will be moderated by the exam boards and will not just be teacher grades.
- OFQUAL have already said: '*In 2021 we will carry forward the overall level of generosity from 2020 recognising disruption and lost learning at an overall, national level.*' This means that 2021 overall grades will be much higher than they were in 2019.
- We are holding off on Progress Evenings - originally scheduled for next week - until we have a better idea of the process so that we can more effectively use these meetings to help you get the best possible grades. This will probably be after half-term.

National Tutoring Programme (Tute)

If your son/daughter has been selected for the tutoring programme, we can confirm that it will begin, for most students, on Monday, January 18, 2021. Further information will be emailed to parents on Tuesday, January 12.

Careers

Mrs Walton, our Careers Adviser, is available for video calls. Please contact Mrs Settle or Miss Johnson to set up an appointment: beth.settle@utcn.org.uk or emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk

Kind regards
Alex Hayes
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Online lessons commence - Tuesday January 5, 2021
February Half Term - February 15 to February 19, 2021

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