



Rye College

The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ

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www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock

Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

20th January 2021

Dear Year 11 students and families,

RE: Consultation on the award of GCSE grades 2021 – Have your say.

Following the cancellation of the summer series of exams this year, a public consultation on the processes for awarding of both GCSE and vocational qualifications in 2021 has now opened. These are joint consultations between OfQual and the Department for Education (DfE). They want to hear the views of students who were due to take their exams, their parents and carers, teachers and school leaders. There is an informative OfQual blog, summarising the consultation processes, [here](#).

We encourage you all to take part in these consultations. The consultation closes on the 29th January 2021. Please see below for links you need to have your say.

GCSE qualifications consultation process (all Year 11 students)

All Year 11 students at Rye College are taking GCSE qualifications this year. Here are the [proposals for the award of GCSE qualifications](#). You can [respond to the GCSE proposals online here](#).

Vocational qualifications consultation process (some Year 11 students)

Some Year 11 students at Rye College are taking vocational qualifications this year (Engineering, Music, Sports Science). Here are the [proposals for the award of vocational qualifications](#). You can [respond to the vocational proposals online here](#).

With the consultation now opened to the public, this is what we currently know:

- All GCSE, AS and A-Level exams in summer 2021 are cancelled;
- Students will instead receive grades based on a form of teacher assessment;
- No algorithm will be used;
- Training and support will be provided to teachers to ensure teacher-assessed grades 'are awarded fairly and consistently across the country';
- Details will need to be fine-tuned in collaboration with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching organisations;
- Results may be issued early to allow more time for appeals, resits and university admissions.

The consultation documents suggest that grades will be based on teacher judgements at the end of GCSE and vocational courses. **Ofqual and the DfE are seeking views on whether there should be some form of assessments at the end of each course.**



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This is very different from last year when teachers were asked to make judgements on what students would potentially achieve at the end of the year, if exams had taken place. Last year's guidance was the consequence of the late cancellation of exams, when students were approaching the end of their courses.

This year, the early cancellation means that students are still expected to continue to engage with their learning. Teachers must take a holistic approach to judgements so it is important that students continue to engage with remote learning, including attending live Teams lessons and submitting their work to teachers.

Students' continued participation will support any judgements that teachers will eventually make once we know exactly what the final process will be. We recently wrote to you discussing our rolling programme of remote assessments for Year 11 students, which will continue to build our portfolio of evidence that will be used to support teachers' judgements.

We appreciate that the current circumstances surrounding the award of your qualifications may be causing some apprehension. We encourage you to have your say about these proposals, by using the above links.

To our Year 11 students we say this: the best thing you can do is to continue to participate in your remote learning. Work with your teachers to continue to develop your skills and knowledge. This will provide the teachers with the evidence they need to award the grades that reflect your true potential. Well done to all of you for your efforts so far this term.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, remote learning or anything else the school can help with, please email office@ryecollege.co.uk. We will do all we can to support our students achieve the successes they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Rickard

Assistant Headteacher - Standards