

**Philip Storey** BSc (Hons), NPQH, PQSI  
CEO

University of Kent Academies Trust  
Marlborough Road  
Gillingham  
Kent  
ME7 5HT

T: 01634 852341

E: [office@universityofkentacadmistrust.org.uk](mailto:office@universityofkentacadmistrust.org.uk)

W: [www.universityofkentacadmistrust.org.uk](http://www.universityofkentacadmistrust.org.uk)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a difficult and challenging period, and we know that many of our students are feeling anxious and concerned about returning to school and managing their workload. Our priority is to support our students' well-being and academic progress.

Naturally, there will be concern over how qualification grades will be calculated this summer, and the information below should help you to understand how this will happen. Ofqual has now published how they expect examination grades to be awarded and we are writing to you to outline the key points of Ofqual's guidance as well as the steps we will be taking to ensure that grades are as fair and accurate as possible.

The key points from the Ofqual guidance are as follows:

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught.
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, Exam Boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.
- Exam Boards will also publish optional assessment materials by Easter, some of which will be based on past papers and others that will be previously unseen.
- Exam Boards will publish requirements for centres' quality assurance, including checking consistency of judgements across teachers.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- Exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.
- A-level and other KS5 results will be published on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- GCSEs and other KS4 results will be published on August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.
- For those students who want a further chance to improve on their teacher assessment grades, the government is expected to announce that a full autumn exam series will be held for the second year in a row.

The full Ofqual response to the consultation can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964597/6747-1\\_decisions\\_-\\_GQ\\_consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964597/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)

We are committed to ensuring that grades awarded to students are as fair and accurate as possible. Therefore, we are putting in place the following framework to support students:

- As with the Academy's grade awarding process in summer 2020 we will be adopting an evidence-based approach that will take into account a **wide range of current and historic assessment data** in order to provide a full and fair picture of each student's progress and attainment
- As part of a standardised procedure across all subjects, individual student's circumstances will be carefully evaluated to ensure they receive the **fairest and truest reflection of their abilities**.
- A highly structured quality assurance process will be used to ensure consistency and transparency at every stage. This will involve a group of senior leadership members who will **scrutinise, check and validated all grades before their submission**
- End of year assessment materials will form part of our process but will **not determine final grades exclusively, nor will they hold greater value to the setting of final grades than our use of other assessment information**. Further details will be issued in due course regarding the schedule and dates of these assessments.

Yours Sincerely,  
UKAT Assessment team