MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 11 and 13 Examination Grades

I hope you are well and are pleased to have your child back in school after the most recent full national lockdown.

My colleagues and I are aware that the uncertainty that students have faced, regarding examination grades this summer, has led to some anxiety for both parents and students but we hope that the information in this letter will go some way to providing clarity about the next few months. I wanted to update you on what we were doing across our schools to ensure that your child receives a fair grade for each of their subjects, and that they are not disadvantaged with regard to their future plans.

I include a link to the recent 'Consultation Decisions' from the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), which outlines the summary of the decisions and the rationale of the approach to be taken this summer:
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021

Between now and the Easter break, subject leaders, teachers and senior leaders will be working together across the Trust to agree the evidence-base which will be used to calculate the Centre Assessed Grades, and to ensure there is a standardisation process within subject teams. The evidence-base will be holistic and not based on one single element. The evidence base will be communicated with students and parents in advance of grades being submitted to the examination boards.

At each stage of the process there will be discussions with a range of colleagues to ensure that the submitted grades represent the grade at which the student is performing at the end of the course. The guidance very clearly states: **'Grades must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do, and they must be widely understood and respected.'**

At this stage we have decided that we will include in our evidence the contribution of planned summer assessments that will take place in May.

Year 11

- Students will sit a summer Trust-wide assessment in each subject between 13-21 May for GCSE and 10-21 May for A Level based on the examination board support package.

Year 10 (Where applicable)

- Students will sit a summer Trust-wide assessment in Re on 12 May

Year 13

- Students will sit a summer Trust-wide assessment in each subject between 10-21 May

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In each series we aim to base the assessments on the examination board support package. Further details about the coverage of the papers will be made available by each centre as soon as this is possible.

The content of these assessments will be planned by subject leaders following the release of examination board support materials which is expected to be at the end of March. The scheduling and exact timings of the summer assessments will be communicated shortly.

Results need to be submitted to examination boards by 18 June and the results will be issued to students on the published results dates of 10 August for A Level, and the 12 August for GCSE results.

Please note that we are not allowed to share the submitted grades with students, parents or carers. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, subject leaders or Heads of Centre feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Please do not contact any member of staff regarding your child's submitted grade as they will not respond.

The normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals will not apply this year. In the first instance a student may ask the centre if they have made a clerical error. If the centre has made a clerical error then the centre must approach the examination board and ask for the error to be amended. If the centre has not made a clerical error and the student disagrees with the judgement then the student must approach the examination board via the centre and ask for the examination board to review the judgement made.

It is important to note that a student's grade could go up or down following an appeal.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their examinations in the autumn series or in summer 2022. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression. We will write to you separately with guidance for students who wish to take the examination at a later stage. We strongly advise that if you suspect this is likely to be the case, that students keep up to date with their work and retain all their notes so that they can prepare for those examinations.

Yours sincerely

G. Attridge

Mr Graham Attridge
Trust Lead for Assessment & Reporting