



18 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Re: Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for Year 11 and 13 students

**All students will undertake assessments in their subjects this year.**

Further to my letter at the start of term, dated 6th January 2021, you may well be aware the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Gavin Williamson, has confirmed all final grades for GCSE, BTEC and A-Level qualifications this year will be teacher assessed, or what we call 'Centre Assessed Grades' (CAGs).

I understand many parents and carers will have questions about how we will make our final decisions on grades, so I would like to set out some information around our framework for determining the grade your child will receive.

Most significantly, Mr Williamson and Ofsted have made it clear that we need strong evidence, on which we will decide our CAGs. This is something we entirely agree with, as students need to show they are capable of performing academically at a certain level. This will provide a robust foundation on which to base our judgement and enable students to feel they have truly achieved the grade they are awarded.

Consequently, Future Academies have decided that we will put in place assessments across all of the subjects our students are studying. **This will mean that your child will take internal assessments in each of the subjects they have been studying.** We await further guidance from the Department for Education, but we want all students to understand and be prepared for assessments that will be very similar to the exams they would have been expected to complete.

**We believe this is the right decision as it will allow the children to maintain focus and provide evidence when teachers are awarding grades.** More detail we follow on the nature of these assessments. Please support us in this approach by ensuring your child continues to work towards their assessments for this year. They will provide us with vital information; they alone will not be used to award the Centre Assessed Grade.

I wanted to write to you at this point so that you know the intention regarding testing.

**Furthermore, we will be asking for all exercise books, for all subjects, to be returned to the school at some point towards the end of their course.** We will also be monitoring work completed online. We will get in touch with further details on this as the time approaches, though we expect this to be close to the Easter holidays, but it may be sooner.

It is crucial that work is completed in exercise books to the same high standard we would expect in school. That applies, too, to all electronic and online work completed from now onwards, on Google docs etc. As parents or carers, you can check daily that work has been completed by looking in exercise books for the subjects completed that day. You can check your child's timetable by looking at their Google calendar. Some practical subjects may not have exercise books, but for those that do, you should be able to see:

- A title and date, underlined, for each lesson
- A completed 'Do Now'. This is a short task at the start of each lesson
- Work completed for that lesson
- Some work should have either ticks or corrections in a different coloured pen, preferably green.

As we don't get to look at work and speak with students with the same freedom we would have in our classrooms, this will be one of the main sources of evidence that will form our CAG in each subject. **I know the vast majority of students are continuing to work very diligently, though I must make it clear that we will be unable to award a good grade if we cannot see evidence of a sufficient quantity work at a sufficient level in books or on electronic media.**

In addition to work completed in exercise books, we will be looking at a variety of other information we have for each student. This will consist of attendance data, behaviour data and of course, attainment data in the form of in-class tests and the aforementioned internal assessments.

We understand there are often extenuating circumstances in certain cases. For this reason, each child and their results will be discussed individually with teachers, Heads of Department and other leaders in the academy to ensure we have an accurate depiction of exactly what grade they would achieve in each subject, should they have had fair access to a full and proper education.

I hope this gives you some confidence in our procedures, I will write to you in the future with further details.

Yours faithfully,

**Paul Smith**  
**CEO**  
**Future Academies**