

5th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will know, the government has now set out details about how students will be assessed, following the cancellation of exams this summer. I appreciate this has been an unsettling time for our Year 11s and welcome the clarity on the way forward. Please be assured, we are committed to making the process work and we will do everything possible to support Rockwood Academy students move on successfully to the next stage of their lives.

In the absence of exams, teachers are best placed to grade students and I have 100 per cent confidence in my team. We have already started work to develop a thorough process for grading students, which will draw on evidence from a range of their work and ensure grades properly reflect their ability. Our process will be rigorous and include detailed moderation at department, school, and Trust level.

Ofqual, the exams regulator, is setting out clear guidelines to help ensure grading is fair and that students from different schools/colleges, backgrounds and parts of the country are treated the same – we will follow these very carefully. Exam boards will also carry out checks.

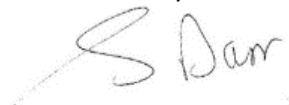
A full appeals process will be available to any student who believes there has been an error in their case.

I understand students may be concerned about their future, after grades are issued. We have excellent relationships with local colleges and training providers, who all understand the challenges of this year. This term, we are working with them to run a series of webinars. I hope students will find these informative and reassuring. When results are issued in mid-August, a little earlier than usual, we will be on hand to give whatever support we can.

I am proud of how hard students have worked throughout lockdown. Please encourage your child to keep up this good work – it is really important, to provide us with the evidence we need to back up any grade we submit; and to ensure they are developing the knowledge and skills they will need in the next stage of their education, training or work.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to school. Please do not hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Sofia Darr
Headteacher