



25th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

We hope this letter finds you and your family well during these challenging times. I write to update you on the latest announcement from the Education Minister.

Schools will now be tasked with issuing '**Centre Determined Grades**' for pupils completing GCSE courses this year. There will be no internal or external examination board assessment, however all teachers and departments will be building their evidence base so that they can accurately award a fair grade to the pupils.

As a school we have been working on developing the assessment plans that are required by each department and feel we are in a strong position with these. We will wait for the higher level guidance from Qualifications Wales and the Examination board and will then be in a position to finalise all the assessment plans. Once finalised, the assessment plans will be checked by the Examination Board.

Evidence has been gathered over the duration of the GCSE course and there will be opportunity for more to be done over the coming months. It is still very uncertain as to when we will be returning to school so it is vitally important that all pupils are engaging with their teachers.

Over the past year, pupils would have received interim and full reports which would indicate a target grade and a professional prediction. The target grade is based on past attainment with input from teacher and pupil. The professional prediction is the grade that the teacher feels is within the pupils grasp based on their level of engagement, attitude and ability. The professional prediction is used in a 'normal' system where there are generally large end of year examinations.

The system we find ourselves in currently is very different to normal. The Centre Determined Grade is not the same as a target grade or professional prediction as it must be evidence based. Teachers have to have the evidence of a particular grade criteria being met before that grade can be awarded. Much of that evidence will be finalised over the coming months.

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It is vital that all Year 11 pupils continue to engage fully so that the necessary evidence can be gathered. Where pupils are not engaging, unfortunately there will be a negative effect on the final grade. If pupils have reduced their levels of engagement, there is still time to catch up and improve.

I am very proud to say that a large proportion of Year 11 are engaging fully and this must be commended. It is important that they continue to work in this way.

We are still awaiting a statement on how vocational qualifications will be awarded and I will update you as soon as I know more.

This letter has been sent through our School Gateway and through ClassCharts. As we move forward, ClassCharts will be our main method of communication with parents. This means we are using one App to communicate with pupils and parents alike on all aspects of school life. We would urge you to ensure that you and your child have downloaded the app and accessed your accounts. If you are unsure of access details, please contact the main school office.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ring the school.

Kind Regards

Shaun Clarke
Headteacher



**Please download the ClassCharts app (for free) on Google Play or Apple Store.
If you are unsure of your access code, please contact the school.**

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