



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

RMCG/KRE

1st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you to confirm arrangements for the final phase of teaching and gathering evidence for your child's GCSE grades. We have now had the final guidance from the relevant organisations and our plans are now ready. I held an assembly with Year 11 students this morning to inform them of the plans also.

How will students be graded?

Students will be issued a Teacher Assessed Grade for their GCSE subjects. The GCSE grade will be based on evidence gathered throughout Year 10 and 11 and can include:

- Previous mock exams.
- Classwork.
- Project based work.
- Performances/practical tasks in the relevant subjects.

In addition to the above, all Year 11 students will have a series of classroom based tests in all their GCSE subjects to ensure that we have captured their performance at the end of the course (which is where students will normally have peaked). Teachers will then utilise the whole pack of evidence to assign the grade the evidence points to. In order to make these fair and transparent we will apply the following:

- All students will have their final Teacher Assessed Grade based on the same evidence tasks.
- All Teacher Assessed Grades will be moderated by another teacher from within the academy.
- A sample of papers will be assessed by an external member of staff.
- I will personally sign off all grades awarded to students.
- All grades will be subject to review by the Regional Director in United Learning.

To give a sense of where students currently are we have attached the Mock Exam results from January 2021 to this letter. These have been issued to your child today. These are **not** final grades and cannot be submitted as final grades as they do not cover the full course. The tests in May will be the key factor in defining final grades. For students studying non-GCSE courses such as BTECs, the arrangements for these assessments are as normal and in most cases are nearly complete.

Students who are entitled to extra support in assessments (extra time, readers etc) will have this support available during the evidence testing phase.

/cont'd



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Key Timelines:

For the three weeks after our return from the Easter break, we will continue to teach Year 11 the final content of their GCSE courses and prepare them for the May Tests. For the weeks beginning Monday 10th May and Monday 17th May we will complete the in-class evidence tests for all courses. In the following week beginning Monday 24th May, students will complete any longer practical assessments required. 100% attendance to school will be vital in ensuring students are prepared effectively for the evidence tests. Students who miss these tests will continue to attend lessons until they have completed their evidence portfolio. I will confirm the leaving date for Year 11 after Easter.

Prom:

We continue to have the Prom booked for Friday, 26th June, whether this goes ahead will depend on the rates of Covid infection in our local area. Our desire is to have the Prom, but I would suggest that families do not go overboard in ordering expensive outfits just in case. We will confirm this as we get closer to the date.

Easter Revision:

There are a number of revision activities and tasks on Show My Homework and Teams for students to complete over Easter. Please do encourage your child to continue to take part in these. Every effort will likely be rewarded in the weeks to come.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding. These have been difficult times, but we will do everything we can to support your child in taking the next steps in their educational journey. If you have any questions Lisa Bewley, Vice Principal will be more than happy to discuss.

Have a lovely Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Richard McGuire
Principal