



**Holderness Academy**  
& Sixth Form College

1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Grades for GCSEs, Vocational Qualifications and A levels in Summer 2021**

Guidance was released on Thursday 25 February from Ofqual and the Department for Education on the awarding of grades for GCSEs, Vocational Qualifications and A levels in Summer 2021. There is a lot of detail to process, and further information on timings, and resources to support grading will be released by the exam boards later this term. At this stage we can share some key points regarding the process for awarding grades.

The following key principles will be applied to the awarding of qualifications this year:

- No summer examinations will take place and no algorithm will be used.
- Grades will be awarded by the exam board but based on teachers' assessments of the standards that students are working at.
- Grades will be awarded by teachers using a broad range of evidence. This could include the use of 'mini tests' provided by exam boards if further evidence is required. These assessments have not yet been released by exam boards; we expect that they will be made available to schools before Easter. It is likely that many subjects will use these 'mini tests' to provide further evidence if necessary. We will provide students with more details on this in due course.
- All schools must have a robust internal Quality Assurance process in place to allow the fair and consistent assigning of grades.
- Exam boards are expected to carry out external Quality Assurance of grades assigned by schools.
- There will be an appeal process if a student believes they have been awarded a grade unfairly. We await further details about this process.
- Schools will submit grades to the exam board by 18 June. Students and parents will not be told the assigned grade at this stage.
- Exam results will be published and available for collection from Holderness Academy & Sixth Form College on:
  - Tuesday 10 August A Level subjects
  - Thursday 12 August GCSE subjects

If you would like more information on how the awarding of grades will be conducted this year, please use the linked articles below:

[Decision on the awarding of grades Summer 2021](#)

[How Summer 2021 GCSEs, AS and A Levels will be awarded infographic](#)

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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In the coming weeks we will further process the guidance and implement the internal systems needed to award grades. When we have further updates, we will share these with you.

Our advice to students remains the same as of January, please continue to engage fully with your lessons and assignments for the rest of the academic year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Pinder  
Director of KS5



Mr D Wobbaka  
Assistant Head - Standards