

Dear students,

We know this past year has been a very challenging and uncertain time for everyone, but particularly for those of you who were due to sit exams and complete their qualifications this year.

We'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what's happening now and give you more information on how your grades will be determined this summer.

How grades will be decided

GCSE Qualifications

As GCSE exam have been cancelled this summer, the Department for Education has confirmed that your teachers will decide your grades. Your teachers will only assess you on what you have been taught and, to do this, they'll use a range of evidence to make a judgement about the grade at which you are performing.

This evidence may include:

- mock exams
- past papers
- or, where applicable, other work such as progress tests, essays or in-class tests

It is very important that you attend all mock exams and assessments that are being set by your teachers to give you the best chance of achieving your target grades.

Functional Skills

The exams are going ahead this year so all learners will sit an exam. Teacher Assessed Grades are **only available as a last resort** where a learner cannot safely sit an assessment (either face to face or remotely). In this case mocks or a past papers will be used as evidence.

Vocational Qualifications

As vocational external assessments have been cancelled this summer and disruptions to teaching have occurred, the Department for Education has confirmed that your teachers will decide your grades. Your teachers will only assess you on what you have been taught and, to do this, they'll use a range of evidence to make a judgement about the grade at which you are performing.

This evidence may include:

- classwork or homework assignments or assessments.
- observation and witness testimonies of practical work

When will the grades be decided and when will I get a result?

Your teachers will submit your grades to the Exam Team by 28 May 2021 to ensure that all quality procedures are carried out before the exam board deadline of 18 June 2021.

Your teachers will explain to you how the grades will be decided but are not able to share your final grades with you before results day. This will be earlier this year on **12 August 2021**.

How are we ensuring your grades are fair?

To prepare for grading all teachers will take part in training to support them to make fair judgements. College quality procedures will then take place to make sure decisions are agreed by other teachers and managers before being submitted.

The exam board will also check grades and carry out sample checks to make sure the grades awarded are fair. There will be no algorithm used to determine final grades this year.

What can I do if I think a mistake has been made?

Should you feel your grades don't represent your achievements, you'll be able to follow an appeals process. Details of the appeals process will be finalised shortly, and we'll share that information with you as soon as we can.

Supporting all students and learners

We know this year hasn't been easy, and we know that the next few months will also be challenging for many of you. We are committed to supporting you to achieve your target grades and your teachers will be providing you with feedback, areas for development and resources to help you succeed. If you have any concerns or questions please contact your course tutor who will be able to help. You can also access support directly from Exam Board websites who are providing information for students, parents and carers.

We wish you every success for this term.

Lewisham College