

*"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."  
Ofsted*

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope that this letter finds you all in good health.

I am writing today to update you on the recently published plan from the Department for Education (DFE) in relation to **GCSE and A Level grades for Summer 2021**.

As you are aware, the Government previously announced that GCSE and A Level examinations will not go ahead this year and that teacher assessed grades will be awarded instead. Below I include some relevant extracts from the DFE guidance released last week.

- *Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught.*
- *Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of the Government's plans to ensure young people get to their next stage of education or training.*
- *Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or any other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests. No algorithm will be used.*
- *Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18 June, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.*
- ***To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.***
- *Students studying vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) that are often taught alongside GCSEs and A levels on one- or two-year courses, and used for university or college places, will also receive grades assessed by teachers rather than sitting exams.*
- *Schools will conduct multiple checks – such as checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed - to ensure as much fairness as possible.*
- *At the same time, exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.*
- *Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.*

An Ofqual guidance sheet is included with this email.

As stated above in bold, we await more detailed guidance on the procedures we will be asked to follow. As soon as we have this (before Easter) I will write to you again to supply you with all the details of how we will generate final GCSE and A Level grades for your sons and daughters. In the meantime, we will continue to provide you with progress data for all students.

I hope you will agree with me that, given the circumstances, this is a fair and reasonable solution being put forward by Government. I do feel that it would have been most unfair to expect students to sit normal or even revised examinations this Summer.



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We now look forward to welcoming students back to school full time from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Year 11 and Year 13 teachers will explain very clearly to students exactly what they will be covering with students in the remaining time we have; whilst this may include some new course content, it is likely that most of the time will be spent revisiting previously covered content. Doing this will allow us to ensure that students are given the very best opportunity possible to demonstrate their understanding of all topics that have been taught.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

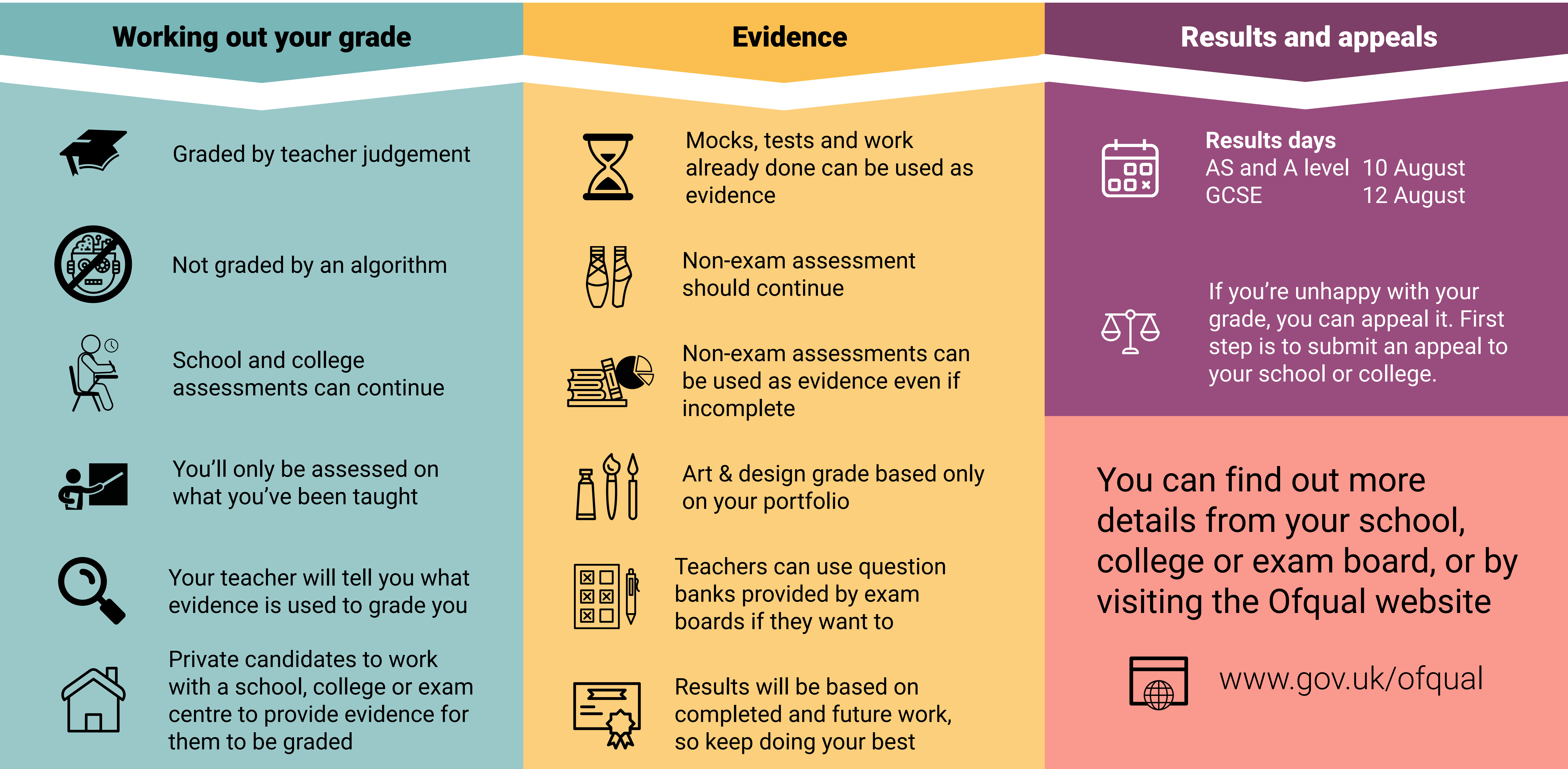


**Mr Clayton**  
**Headteacher**

# How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



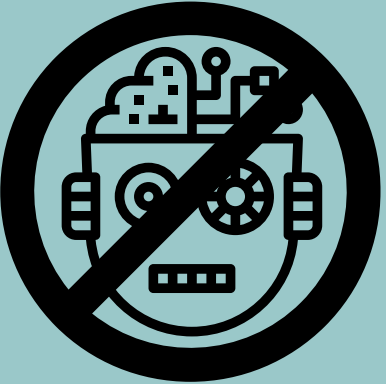
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## Working out your grade



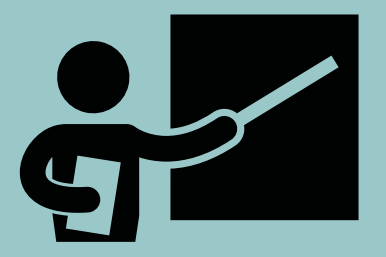
Graded by teacher judgement



Not graded by an algorithm



School and college assessments can continue



You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught



Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you



Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded

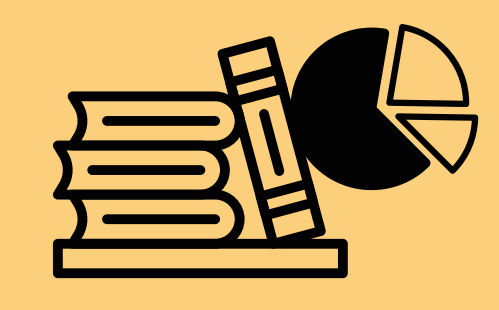
## Evidence



Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence



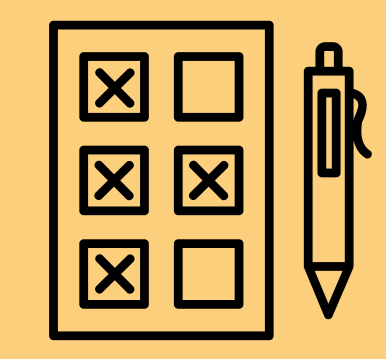
Non-exam assessment should continue



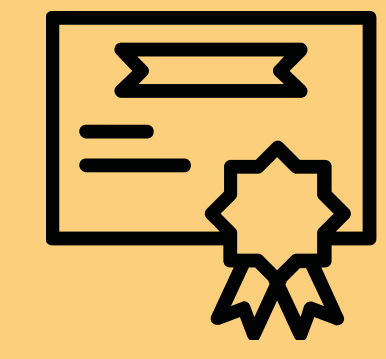
Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete



Art & design grade based only on your portfolio

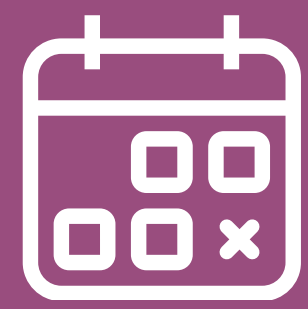


Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to



Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best

## Results and appeals



### Results days

AS and A level 10 August  
GCSE 12 August



If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.

You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website



[www.gov.uk/ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/ofqual)