



Oakworth Road, Keighley, BD22 7DU
Tel: 01535 210111
Email: office@beckfootoakbank.org

Monday 10 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Grades Awarding process

This week the students have seen an assembly lead by Mrs Hart, Associate Headteacher on how their GCSE, A levels and vocational courses in Y11 and Y13 will be awarded. As you are fully aware, the usual exams taken in May and June have been cancelled this year by the Government due to the disruption from Covid. It is important therefore that I explain to you how their grades this summer will be awarded so that you understand the process that we have been asked to follow and so that you have the same information as your child.

Firstly, some key dates:

Friday 28th May – Year 11 and Y13 last day in school. Attendance up to and including this day is compulsory and it is vital that you continue to send your child to school as information from their learning will be used right up until this time.

From Friday 28th May until 25th June – Y11 won't have been forgotten about! Some students will receive calls to check that they are ok and to ensure that they are fully supported for their next steps. All students will have work, activities and information uploaded to their Teams account during this time. Please encourage your child to look at this and access it as it will be useful for their next steps.

Tuesday 10th August – Y13 results day face to face in school during the morning (further details will follow)

Thursday 12th August – Y11 results day face to face in school during the morning (further details to follow)

There are lots of nice things happening for each year groups such as BBQs, Ice Cream Vans, Leavers speeches, proms and some fairground type games on their last day. We want to mark this time for them in a positive way.

The Awarding process

This letter aims to support you as families in understanding the process. You and your child should understand how their teachers are going to decide their final grade and that there is an understanding that these final grades will be reviewed by other teachers and members of the senior leadership team to ensure they have been decided consistently and without bias. Teachers will only assess students on the parts of the course that have been taught and the evidence base will include pieces of work that have already been completed and further assessments taking place in class during May. The evidence base will be the same for all students unless there is a good reason this needs to be any different for specific students or classes.

JCQ document and a draft centre policy - Please click this link to the JCQ document [JCQ Guidance for Students and Parents 2021](#) a draft copy of the centre policy for awarding grades [Beckfoot Oakbank Summer 2021 JCQ Guidance-DRAFT](#). It is available on our website. You will need to read this information and ask us any questions via the school office email address if there is anything that you are not sure of. Guidance for students, parents and guardians: GCSEs and AS/A Levels in England Summer 2021 can be found here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/summer-2021-arrangements/>.



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Subject by subject range of information. In line with JCQ guidance we have provided you with information on what each subject will be using to award the grades. The details will be on our website from tomorrow <https://www.beckfootoakbank.org/students-learning/examinations-results/>. All work must be students own work otherwise this will be considered as malpractice.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments. Where students have been granted Access Arrangements/Reasonable Adjustments we will ensure these are in place for your child's final assessments. Where we have used evidence and students have not had these in place, teachers have been back and reviewed the grades they were awarded. If you believe this has not happened or you have any questions, you need to ask us.

Final Grades. In line with JCQ guidance the final grades are not open for negotiation and students or parents cannot ask teachers what the grade is that has been submitted by the school.

Appealing your grades in August. Further information will be made available about the appeals process over the next few months as it is confirmed and released to us. There will be opportunity to amend the grade awarded to fix any genuine errors that were not identified earlier in the determination of grades process. The details around this process can be found in the guide referenced earlier and will be made available again nearer results day. Guidance for students, parents and guardians: GCSEs and AS/A Levels in England Summer 2021 can be found here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/summer-2021-arrangements/>. There will be an opportunity to sit real exams in all subjects in the Autumn term if you are unhappy with any appeal, but again will share this information when we know more.

Signing to say that you have read this information

In line with policy all students, staff and parents have to sign to say that they have read and understood the information.

The **student link** to this candidate confirmation form is here and needs to be completed by the **14th May**.
<https://forms.office.com/r/pC5cYtvCPs>

The **parent link** to this confirmation form can be found here and must also be completed by **14th May**. It will be sent separately in a MyEd link too. <https://forms.office.com/r/KtXnAKkaj8>

Key terminology used in this letter

JCQ : This is the Joint Council for qualifications. It is the organisation that is working with all of the exam boards and overseeing the grades process this summer.

Malpractice: This means any action which is against the rules and regulations.

Avoiding any bias: This means that we need to ensure that all grades are awarded fairly.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions at all.

Tina Smith
Headteacher

Liz Hart
Associate Headteacher



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