



**BIDDULPH  
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SCHOOL**

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Chief Executive Officer: **Mark Kent**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Re: Year 11 – Teacher Assessed Grades

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and students for the remarkable return to school on Monday. The majority of students were calm, mature, and sensible in their conduct throughout testing and around the school. I am also aware of the incredible amount of work that many have done during this lockdown and wanted to say what a pleasure it was to meet them in person and to speak to them.

You will be aware that the Department for Education have begun to issue some guidance on the way that Year 11 will be graded this year and I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of our approach so that you can be reassured that students will get the results which reflect their work and efforts.

We have several principles that will underline this process:

- Clarity and simplicity: we want the process to be as clear and easily understood as possible.
- Transparency: we will be open about why we are doing what we are doing and help all our students to understand the process.
- Opportunity: students should have as much opportunity as possible to show us what they can do.
- Fairness: the grades students receive should reflect the work that they have produced.
- Achievement: we need to give students a sense of satisfaction and provide them with the appropriate platform for their next steps.
- The mental health and wellbeing of our students is also an important consideration and so the system will be fair, robust, and proportionate.

Students have returned to face-to-face teaching from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. In most subjects, there will be no new content covered, but GCSE subjects have been given until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April to complete any topics or units. Teachers will focus on the most important aspects of the course and will work with students to generate evidence that can be used to contribute towards their final grading decision. Students will not get more than one piece of homework per subject, per week, and will be given adequate time to complete this.

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, students will be revising content during lessons and all homework will be based on revision.

We will be running **‘Exam Board Assessments’ from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. These assessments have been generated by the exam boards, but students will only be assessed on content which teachers have covered during the course. These assessments will be completed under exam conditions but in classrooms and will play a significant role when we consider students’ final grades. However, these assessments come with a “safety net” and we will adjust the grade boundaries in line with what could be reasonably expected from students given the challenges they have faced. We will also be working with other schools within our Trust to ensure that our marking and moderation are in line, and to quality assure our judgements.



**BTEC and some practical subjects** will not have an Exam Board Assessment as they are assessed differently by exam boards and this will be explained by individual subjects. As soon as exam boards notify subjects of arrangements, we will provide further details on what these assessments will look like.

### How will the Teacher Assessed Grade be determined?

The following will be used to inform a grading decision:

- Mock examination grades will form the baseline.
- Exam Board Assessments.
- Other assessed work, for example NEA's, coursework, classwork, homework, or informal class testing.

The weighting of these elements will depend on individual subject guidance from the exam boards and we will ensure that the students are aware of any deadlines.

We know that the lockdown period has affected people in different ways so you must tell us if there is anything exceptional about your personal circumstances which may have affected your child's ability to engage with learning during this period.

### There are two grounds on which you can appeal:

1. **If you think an administrative error has taken place in the submission and award of the grade.** This is relatively straight forward to remedy if this has happened. You simply complete a form and the school will work to address any error.
2. **If you feel that the grade (s) that have been awarded are unfair, unjust and have not followed the process set out within the official guidance.** In this instance, you will be able to appeal to the examination board. They will review the evidence and process we have used to issue the grade. They may choose to move grades down as well as up.

There will also be an opportunity to take examinations during an Autumn series. This will be free of charge. A form will be provided on the exam results day to request this.

Please be aware that the examination boards have made it clear that students and parents should not attempt to influence the grades that are awarded by pressuring school staff. If I feel this is happening, then we are obliged to report it to the examination board as a case of malpractice. Please trust us and our ability to run a fair and robust process. No single teacher is responsible for awarding grades. All grading will go through a system of collection, moderation, and quality assurance.

In the meantime, please make sure that your son/daughter continues to study hard and comes to school. They will still be expected to complete any relevant NEAs (Non-Examined Assessment) and class/homework.

Included below is a table that outlines the key information in this letter. If you have any queries, please feel free to email the school on [office@biddulphhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@biddulphhigh.co.uk) and we will address this as quickly as possible. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support.

Yours faithfully,



E C Robinson  
Headteacher

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### Y11 Teacher Assessed Grades (2021) Schedule

Item	Key dates	Key Information
<b>Y13 Mock Exams</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Mock exams will only be set to cover the content that was studied up until January. The papers will be those that we prepared for earlier this year.
<b>Formal Assessment for Y11</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	An outline of these assessments and a timetable will be sent as soon as the information has been confirmed by exam boards. This will be by Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Formal Assessment for Y13</b>		
<b>TAG grades for Y11 and Year 13</b>	These must be processed by staff and then moderated and quality assured.  The final date to submit these to the exam boards is Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June.	After the Exam Board Assessments have been completed, students will work with their subject staff to complete any outstanding work that will contribute towards their assessment.
<b>School leaving date for Year 11 and Year 13</b>	<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b> – celebration assemblies.	We are still awaiting information about our School Prom, but this remains on the calendar and we will update you as soon as we know.
<b>Further teaching and assessment if required</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Students will be informed if they will need to attend after the half term break to complete any content necessary for next steps or to complete any assessments.
<b>Year 11 Sixth Form Induction and Enrolment</b>	<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July</b> – Induction (further information will be sent).  <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July from 2.15pm</b> – Enrolment (further information will be sent).	
<b>Exam Results</b>	<b>Year 13 = Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Further information will be given to you before you leave school about the collection of results.
	<b>Year 11 = Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	