



Principal: Helen Corbett

Year 11 and Year 13 Exams Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

14 January 2021

On Wednesday the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson outlined his expectations to Ofqual for the replacement of exams. We wanted to provide you with a summary of the proposal. All of us at George Spencer Academy really feel for your child. Not only are they trying their very best to learn from home at a time when there is so much uncertainty but they have the added pressure of wondering how they will be fairly graded. At George Spencer Academy we currently do not know any more than what we are sharing with you all. We can only imagine the worry and anxiety this may be causing your child and until we have the guidance from Ofqual to share we will aim to keep you as informed as possible. We kindly ask that you discuss the summary below with your child and if they would then like a member of our Year 11 or Year 13 team to talk through any questions they have, do let us know by contacting Miss Wilkinson, Year 11 Director of Learning or Mrs Fawcett, Head of 6th Form.

- **Vocational exams in February are now cancelled**

At George Spencer Academy, this means that the Year 11 Health and Social Care exam on the 5th February will no longer take place. The alternative arrangements for this qualification will be decided through the national consultation process.

- **Teacher assessment will be based on 'a breadth of evidence'**

Training and guidance will be given to support all teachers to assess their students in a fair and consistent fashion. There will be national moderation to ensure this is done fairly.

- **Grades are to be given out as late as possible**

Mr Williamson says 'It is vital that students remain engaged and motivated in education and are given the maximum teaching time to catch up before a final grade is awarded'. This would mean the students in Year 11 and 13 are continuing to produce work that can be used as evidence for a final grade. Based on this statement it is very important that your child remains motivated and engaged in remote learning. If they are struggling with any element of this please let us know so we can put support in place for them.

- **Some external assessments may be set**

There will be the possibility of externally set tasks and/or papers being recommended to be used so that teachers can 'draw on their resource to support their assessment of students'.

- **No algorithm**

Grades will not be based on any algorithm and any grade changes should be the exception and 'based on human decisions, not an automatic process'.

All of these are proposals and we will have confirmation of the final plans once the consultation period is over. We have included the link to the Government website, should you wish to read the full version of Mr Williamson's letter. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-gavin-williamson-to-simon-lebus>

We are here to support all our students through this in any way we can so please do get in touch with any questions you have.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Corbett
Principal

Miss L Jenkinson
Vice Principal of Achievement