



# MILLOM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr M. D Savidge

Ref:sjo/Gmlmad\20-21\KS4\ExamLtr

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/carer(s)

I am writing to you after the Education Secretary's announcement on Thursday 25 February. The information we currently have is not complete, but we feel we need to write to you explaining the current situation.

For GCSEs, AS and A levels, teachers will assess the standard at which students are performing. This is based only on what your child has been taught so that teachers in school can determine your child's grade. Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that teachers have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

We wrote to you in January outlining the types of evidence which may be required: This means teachers will have to assess students using the evidence base they have; this will include:

- a. Work completed in school
- b. Homework completed (when school is open as normal)
- c. Work completed via remote learning; when the school has been closed or when students are in a period of isolation.
- d. Coursework
- e. Centre Assessments (those completed in November)

Teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers, to help assess your child. Reasonable adjustments will be taken into account if the student has exam access arrangements. When the guidance is published, in full, it may become clearer as to whether the school needs to run centre assessments in an exam hall (like the November series we completed), however, this is not the current understanding of the guidance.

The arrangements for this year are designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible; so teachers' judgement of your child's work will take place as late in the academic year as is practicable. It is important that the students keep engaged in learning and study, as long as possible, so that their hard work can be considered in their final grade. This, of course, will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their life. Teachers will tell your child know which pieces of work will count towards their grade, before their grade is submitted to the exam board.

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We urge the students to consider the following points:

1. Your child's hard work will still be recognised. None of the effort which has been shown so far will have been wasted. On the contrary, the system we will be using will make sure the quality of the work completed will be fully reflected in your child's final grade. The students also need to think about a concerted effort to provide their teachers with the evidence they need to recognise your child's potential in their subjects. During the year, we have been talking to students about providing teachers with this evidence base. This means it is still vitally important that students complete the work and assessments set by teachers; as exam boards are asking for evidence, rather than predictions; as they did last year.
2. Different to last year, we are returning to school before the end of the academic year. This gives students the opportunity to continue and improve their evidence base in the classroom, with face to face teaching, rather than via remote learning.
3. The system which is used will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. This process has been on going all year. Any grades that your teachers give you will be carefully moderated to ensure they are consistent within our school and nationally. If any student or parent/carer were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there will be a mechanism to complete a follow up exam in autumn as there was this year.
4. Students studying BTEC subjects (Sport, Health and Social care and Performing arts) will have strict deadlines to provide work to their teachers. This because the Standards verification process is still going ahead and a sample of student's work has to be sent to an external standards verifier.

It is important to stress the predicted grades, which can be seen on Go 4 Schools, are just that, predictions. These predictions were made in November under the consideration students would be in school and sitting "normal" examinations.

These predictions are now no longer valid due the reason stated above and due to the process of standardisation and moderation which will need to take place.

The key information in this letter, for both you and the students, is to keep working and keep providing evidence for their teachers. If the member of staff does not have an evidence base they cannot predict what the student would have done; they can only use the evidence they have in order to provide the exam board with the teacher assessed grade.

For the next few months, it is vitally important that your child returns to school ready to learn on the 10 March. Your child must **complete all work set when we return to school, revise for any centre assessments and assessments held in class** and know that **every piece of work they complete will make a difference to their overall grade.**

Yours faithfully



S J Olliver  
Assistant Headteacher