



18 January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

To Students, Parents and Carers of Exam Year Groups (Y11 & Y13)

In my letter to Year 11 students, parents and carers on Friday afternoon about the return of Practice Exam papers I made reference to the consultation by the DFE and Ofqual on the awarding of grades for GCSEs and A levels due this summer. This consultation was finally published at the end of the day on Friday.

The consultation serves the dual purpose of providing us all with an indication of the process that is likely to be followed in the summer, whilst also inviting all stakeholders to provide their own comments and responses on the proposals.

We would therefore encourage all students, parents and carers to view the document and to provide responses where you wish to. The consultation can be accessed via the following link and there is a link embedded within the document to allow you to give your responses.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf.

There is a separate consultation taking place regarding Vocational and Technical Qualifications, which includes all the BTEC qualifications which we offer at St Bart's, so those students taking BTECs may wish to read and respond to this as well using the following link.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953003/6743-2_2021_VTQ_alternative_arrangements_consultation_15JAN21.pdf.

Whilst we will not be able to make detailed plans about how we as a school will approach this process until the results of the consultation are published and the Secretary of State and Ofqual then determine the final arrangements, there are a couple of things that we can be clear on from what is being proposed. These are that there is likely to be some sort of nationally approved testing system taking place in schools in May and June and that schools will not be asked to submit any grades until the second half of the summer term.

What both of these proposals indicate is that it is vitally important that all students in Years 11 and 13 continue to engage fully with their learning and assessment through the rest of the academic year, as all the work completed will be important for the grades awarded. We have been extremely impressed with the levels of engagement we have seen over the last two weeks and we are confident that all of you will continue to show this commitment through the very challenging times that we face.

Thank you to all students, parents and carers for your continued support as we work with you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Sharpe
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum & Achievement

Andover Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6JP Tel: 01635 521255 Fax: 01635 576320 email: office@stbarts.co.uk Web: www.stbarts.co.uk
Headteacher: Ms J A Mortimore BA (Hons), MA

St Bartholomew's School: a charitable company limited by guarantee Company Number: 07721470 (England and Wales)

