

**Bohunt School Worthing**

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Bohunt Worthing Headteacher: Mr A Whitehead BSc (Hons)

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Dear Parents, Carers and Year 11,

As we near the end of the Year 11 mock period I wanted to share how Bohunt School Worthing and all schools in Bohunt Education Trust, will provide feedback to students from these assessments. This year students will receive a percentage and/or a raw score from the papers undertaken, but they will not receive a mock grade. We recognise that some students, and parents, might be disappointed not to receive a grade. Please be assured that this decision has not been taken lightly, but the exceptional circumstances of the current pandemic mean that we do not consider such action to be in the longer term best interests of our learners.

Students experienced almost half a year's disruption to their teaching and learning last year and there continues to be disruptions this year. As a result we have reduced confidence in the benefits of awarding grades at this time because such action may serve to discourage rather than to instill confidence in preparation for the summer's exams. Student well-being and mental health are at the forefront of our decision making and we think the provision of mock grades would not promote these.

All students will receive their teachers' projected grades for each subject, these take into account mock performance as well as other factors such as classwork, homework, other assessments and the teacher's professional judgement. This judgement represents what they consider the student might achieve in the actual GCSEs. These are the grades your daughter/son will need to use during their applications for study post-16.

What we will ensure, is that each student in every subject will receive high-quality feedback from their teachers. Feedback which details how they might improve their answers and their overall performance in summer 2021. This process will happen from the week commencing 14 December. The actions needed to incrementally raise their percentage scores over the coming months is the activity students must address to improve any final grade and focusing on these steps is the most positive way forward.

Parents and students might be concerned that colleges require mock grades in order to offer places for 2021. This is not the case and any application should be shared with Miss Paterson in the exams office who will provide you with their most recent projected grade.

Current guidance remains that all students in England are expected to sit summer exams. Our preparation is planned to ensure that all subject content is fully covered by then, time has been set aside for revision and that students also arrive at May/June self-confident and well prepared mentally to do their best. Our traditional second set of mocks are already in the calendar for March and will provide us with additional important indicators on summer performance. Depending on what happens over the coming months it is again possible that we will not be issuing students with grades following those assessments. All participation in and outcomes from classwork, homework, exams and other assessments are building a wide ranging evidence base covering all aspects of their courses and no one piece overrides all others. Should there be an alternative to summer GCSE exams we will have this wealth of evidence to use.

I hope that this letter answers any questions you may have regarding the current mock exam period; please be assured that we are acting in what we consider to be the best interests of all our students. Should you have any further questions please do contact Miss B. Palmer bpalmer@bohuntworthing.com

Yours faithfully

Proud to be part of the Bohunt Education Trust

enjoy respect achieve

CAm Whithead

Headteacher