



Mossbourne Community Academy

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Associate Principal: Rebecca Warren

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Awarding of RS Short Course

It is wonderful news that Ofqual, the regulatory body for GCSE examinations, has confirmed that pupils in Year 10 will be included in the process for awarding GCSE grades this academic year. This follows pressure from schools and academies across the country (including Mossbourne Community Academy) who wrote to Ofqual to voice that Year 10 pupils should not be disadvantaged by the current situation. This is excellent news for our students as they will now receive a grade for the GCSE Religious Studies Short Course examination that they would have taken this summer. An updated version of the Ofqual information is available from the MCA website.

I would like to share with you the process that teaching staff will use to determine the centre assessed grades for your child. The centre assessed grade is the grade which the academy will submit to the examination board for your child's GCSE RS Short Course. The centre assessed grade IS NOT guaranteed to be the final grade the examination board awards to your child.

I would also like to assure parents and carers that all steps in the process are in accordance with the guidelines issued by Ofqual in order to determine *'the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.'*

The process staff will use to determine the centre assessed grades for your child are as follows:

	Action	Justification
1	Mock Examination Each pupil's mock examination result (February 2020), is used as the starting point for their final grade.	The mock assessment comprised of multiple papers taken under examination conditions. The papers were marked, standardised and moderated under a controlled process between Mossbourne Community Academy and Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy. The assessments represent the most reliable set of data for all pupils.
2	Calculated Grade The next step is the application of the average raw mark increase, between the February mock examination outcomes to final GCSE RS Short Course outcomes, based on the 2018/19 cohort. This produces a calculated grade for each pupil. For example, in 2019, pupils who achieved grade 5 in the mock examination for GCSE RS Short Course gained an average increase of 20 raw marks in the final GCSE examination. Teaching staff will, therefore, add 20 raw marks to the results of pupils who achieved grade 5 in the GCSE RS Short Course, February 2020, mock examination to produce a calculated grade for GCSE RS Short Course.	Schools have been informed that the grades submitted to examination boards will be compared to their performance in last year's examinations as part of this process.

3	<p>Centre Assessed Grade* The calculated grade for each pupil will be discussed and considered in video meetings between classroom teachers and managers. Further evidence will be considered to produce a centre assessed grade.</p> <p>*The centre assessed grade is the grade which is submitted to the examination boards.</p>	<p>The Ofqual guidance clearly states that schools have to take into account a range of evidence in awarding a centre assessed grade. This includes other assessment results, standard of coursework (complete or non-complete), previous examination results in that subject, standard of classwork and homework tasks amongst others stated in the Ofqual guidance.</p>
4	<p>Centre Assessed Grade The centre assessed grades for each pupil is subject to a review meeting between the Head of Department, Head of Learning Area and the Associate Vice-Principals for assessment (MCA & MVPA). The Principal of the relevant academy and the Chief Executive Officer of the Mossbourne Federation may also be part of this panel.</p>	<p>This is to ensure the evidence used to adjust a grade up or down is present and has been applied fairly.</p>
5	<p>Rank Order of Pupils based on Centre Assessed Grades Pupils are placed in rank order based on the centre assessed grade they are awarded. The most secure pupil within a grade is ranked '1'. As in all other years, rank order will not be reported on the examination certificate.</p> <p>MCA will be using the mock examination scores as the means of producing this rank order as this is the best way to ensure a consistent standard is applied across all subjects.</p> <p>For example, a pupil may be awarded '8/1' in GCSE RS Short Course. The '8' denotes the centre assessed grade and the '1' denotes the fact that the pupil is the most secure grade 8 within the cohort of pupils who are assessed as grade 8. On the pupil's examination certificate, a grade 8 will be awarded if the examination board determine this is the pupil's final grade.</p> <p>For example, a pupil may be awarded '4/7' in GCSE RS Short Course. The '4' denotes the centre assessed grade and the '7' denotes the fact that the pupil is the seventh most secure grade 4 within the cohort of pupils who are assessed as grade 4. On the pupil's examination certificate, a grade 4 will be awarded if the examination board determine this is the pupil's final grade.</p> <p>Only final grades will appear on examination certificates. The final grade will not be known by teaching staff until examination results are published on 20th August 2020.</p>	<p>The rank order is required by the examination boards so that in the case of grades being adjusted up/down pupils are identifiable.</p> <p>Pupils cannot be given the same ranking. In the case of identical examination scores the ranking will be based on KS2 data, the End of Year 9 assessment mark, and the October assessment mark. The use of numerical information in this way reduces the degree of bias in this process.</p>
6	<p>The final centre assessed grades and rank order will be signed off by the Head of Department, Head of Learning Area and teachers for each subject, and a final declaration for all results signed by the Head of Centre.</p>	<p>This is a legal requirement not only for this process, it has always been the case for previous examinations.</p>

The Ofqual guidance states that schools must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessed grades nor the rank order of pupils with parents, carers, external agencies or indeed the pupils themselves. Please do not contact teaching staff regarding this process as they are legally bound not to discuss this information.

Publication of results

The GCSE RS Short Course results will be disseminated to pupils upon their formal return to the academy, post results day on 20th August 2020, as in all other years. It is hoped that all schools will be open to all pupils from September 2020 at the very latest but at the time of writing the date has not been confirmed.

Arrangements for appeals will be published by Ofqual and the examination boards prior to the results. The Ofqual guidance has stated that the grounds for appeals will be '*narrow and based on the application of the process*'. I have shared the process with you to demonstrate the care taken to comply with legal requirements and to give assurance that all pupils are given the opportunity to achieve their most likely grade with objectivity and fairness.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Jones, Assistant Vice Principal, Assessment.