

The Oldershaw Academy

Valkyrie Road
Wallasey
Wirral CH45 4RJ
Tel: 0151 638 2800
E-mail: schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk
Website: www.oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk



Executive Principal: Mr J Bush

26th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Home' Mock Exams as Evidence for Exam Grades

As you may be aware, the Department for Education is continuing to consult with students, parents / carers, teachers and school leaders on the most appropriate way to issue GCSE grades to Year 11 pupils following the cancellation of the traditional summer exam series.

Although this consultation is still ongoing, there is a clear difference between how GCSEs were issued in Summer 2020 compared to how they will be issued to current Year 11 pupils in Summer 2021. Last year, schools closed much later in the year, so teachers were asked to predict how they felt students would have performed **if they had sat the exam**, and this informed their Centre Assessed Grade (CAG). As this second lockdown has occurred earlier in the academic year and the remote learning offer is significantly enhanced, it seems likely that teachers will be asked to submit CAGs based on **how pupils are currently performing**.

Therefore, we must stress that everything your child is completing at home during this period of lockdown will inform their GCSE grades.

In order to support the collection of accurate evidence on how pupils are performing, the Academy has invested in mock examination papers which have been produced by Edexcel. Once completed, these examination papers will be returned to the exam board for marking and grading, providing the Academy with an accurate and robust 'current performance' of pupils to inform future grade judgements.

To allow pupils to complete these examination papers, we will be running a short period of 'home mocks' for GCSE English Literature, GCSE Geography and GCSE Mathematics for Year 11 pupils in the final week of this half term. The arrangements for these 'home mocks' are below. At the start time for each examination, your child's teacher will go 'live' to explain the expectation of the exam and respond to any questions from pupils.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Examination Activity</u>
Thursday 4th & Friday 5th February	Pupils collect their examination papers from the Academy Office (Valkyrie Road) between 8am and 4pm. These will be in a named, sealed envelope and should not be opened; for some pupils, there will be two envelopes to collect.
Monday 8th February	9am – GCSE English Literature (1 hour, 45 minutes) 1pm – GCSE Mathematics (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Tuesday 9th February	9am – GCSE Geography (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Wednesday 10th February	Completed examination papers must be returned to the Academy Office on this date. They should be returned in the original envelope that they were collected in.
Thursday 11th February	Examination papers posted to Edexcel to be marked.

Please be aware that the Academy's Centre Number is 34767

Please ensure that a quiet space is provided for your child to complete the examination, and where possible, that you are able to supervise your child to ensure that only the allotted time is used, and pupils do not have access to devices such as mobile phones or tablets whilst completing these examinations.

I am sure that you will appreciate that these examinations are of vital importance in ensuring we have accurate information to inform our judgements about your child's performance and we appreciate your support to allow your child to achieve their potential.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Bush', written in a cursive style.

Jon Bush

Principal

