

March 2021



Eastbrook School

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Awarding grades this summer

We must ensure as best we can that there is trust and integrity in the awarding of grades this summer. There is a lot of work to be done from now till then. Teachers need a chance to discuss as professionals how best to approach this. Pupils are rightly anxious and might feel powerless to do anything about their future, and parents too are feeling a burden to keep their child well throughout the whole process. With all this in mind, at Eastbrook we want to consider all the information at hand, draw on all the expertise available, and not move too soon until we are certain we have it just right for our pupils.

We are waiting on some key information release from the exam boards, this will tell us the process they each expect us to follow in making an accurate and fair grade judgement balanced across the country. We will be doing a lot of work with our teachers to make sure the awarding of grades is done consistently and fairly, and we will clearly explain all the processes to follow if anyone should feel the need to appeal. The exam boards are also releasing examination resources soon, which schools can use to help assess pupils on areas they have been learning since starting their course, which includes the learning that has taken place since and during the two lockdowns

We have been clearly told by the DFE that individual schools will assess pupils only what they have been taught. So now is a good time to make sure that all students are catching up on any due pieces of work, like homework or controlled assessments, and all students should continue learning to the best of their ability. We will ensure that we give all students the best opportunity to demonstrate their ability right up to June of this summer when schools will have to submit grades to the exam boards. I can assure all parents and pupils that whatever processes we implement to gather the evidence we need to award the grades, we will do so with the wellbeing and best interests of our students in mind. No tests or assessments will be implemented without reasonable notice and where possible topics and dates will be shared in advance to give everyone the best chance to revise and prove themselves.

No final grade will be based on any one single test, rather we will look at a variety of evidence to put forward to the exam boards when we submit grades. We will of course inform parents and pupils in due course what that evidence will look like and your child will receive feedback and will know what they need to work on to improve. There is all the opportunity now to improve and so I ask every pupil to carry on working as well as they have been this year despite the very difficult challenge they have faced.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anamul Khan', is written over a large, faint watermark of a lion's head in the background.

Anamul Khan
Deputy Headteacher