



# Emerson Park Academy

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

ENDEAVOUR  
PERSEVERE  
ACHIEVE

10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Head Teacher: Mr S McGuinness

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to previous correspondence regarding how qualifications will be awarded in the summer, I would like to provide additional information on how the grades will be determined and what this means for Y11 students when they return from Thursday.

It has been confirmed that GCSE grades will be determined by teachers and unlike last year, exam boards will not be using an algorithm to potentially alter grades. In order to inform our judgements, teachers will be using evidence about your child's performance gathered throughout the course since the start of Y10. Exam boards will be providing more advice about the range of evidence that schools can use, but it is likely to include mock exam results, coursework, homework, topic tests and any other suitable classwork. In time, teachers will be informing students of the evidence that will be required to make an overall judgement and once this has been confirmed I will collate all this information from the various subjects and distribute to parents and students.

When students return to school tomorrow, lessons will continue to run as normal. Each subject area will differ slightly but students can expect to:

- Continue to be taught new subject content where appropriate (teacher judgements will only be made on what has been taught)
- Continue to complete coursework if applicable
- Have opportunities to revise and revisit prior knowledge
- Undertake in-class assessments which will form part of the evidence collected to inform teacher judgements.

You may have heard at the start of the year that the Government was considering creating 'mini papers' for students to sit in the summer. This has not materialised and exam boards will instead provide a package of support materials, including unseen questions which departments may wish to use to form part of their in-class assessments. To avoid placing additional pressure on our students, we do not intend to run formal exams in the sports hall, but rather allow teachers to spend their time teaching new material and revising, whilst conducting regular assessments throughout the remaining time that Y11 have at Emerson Park. Subject specific details will be provided by class teachers in due course and will be sent to you.

In December, predictions were placed on Go4Schools and towards the end of this term they will be updated. Predictions are a professional judgement made by teachers in line with the progress that students are making. These will provide a good indication as to the final grade a student could achieve but are by no means the final grade that will be awarded.



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Results day has been moved to Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and from this date, students will have the right to appeal their final grade. In the summer term I will provide further details as to how this will work.

Currently we do not have a leaving date for Y11. The only guidance schools have received from the DfE is that we should aim to teach students for as long as possible before submitting grades to the exam boards by 18<sup>th</sup> June. Whilst we would like to make the leaving date as late as possible, the process required to check, quality assure and input the grades for every student, in each of the GCSE subjects takes time and this process cannot be rushed. I will be able to confirm a leaving date at the start of the summer term.

On a final note, teachers have a good understanding of their student's performance and over the coming months will be supporting them to ensure the grade given is both fair and deserved. It is vital that students continue to fully engage in their learning in school and at home to maximise their full potential.

Any questions relating to how GCSEs will be awarded should be sent to [exams@emersonparkacademy.org](mailto:exams@emersonparkacademy.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Giles', written over a faint horizontal line.

Nick Giles  
Assistant Head Teacher