

Dear Y11 Student,

I hope you are well and staying safe. I know this has been a really difficult time for you, you have spent the last two years at least really focussing on the exams you were expecting to take and now that they have been cancelled I know many of you are feeling lost and uncertain as to what is going to happen next. I haven't been able to tell you simply because it was still being worked out by the government and Ofqual- they're the people that are in charge of all the exams and how they work.

Last Friday schools were finally told how the grading system was going to work. Along with this letter I have attached two documents from the Department for Education: one is a letter to you setting it all out and the other is a letter for your parents and carers.

I thought you might find it helpful if I set it out here as well.

1. Your teachers will give the exam board a grade based on what they think you would have got in the summer. We will base this on:
  - Classwork
  - Homework
  - Mock results
  - Progress grades
  - Coursework (for those subject that still have coursework)

**We are not allowed to ask you to do any more assessments or coursework to contribute to this grade**

**This will not necessarily be the grade you will be given**

**Your teachers are not allowed tell you what grade you have been given**

2. When we have given grades to students, teachers will then be asked to put them in rank order. This means that if we give grade 6 to 20 students, we have to put them in order of who we think would be the highest grade 6 to who we think would be the lowest grade 6

**We are not allowed to share that information with you**

3. The **exam board** will give you a grade. They will look at things like your SATs scores from Y6 and previous grades that the school has achieved.
4. Your results will come in the summer. We don't know exactly when but it will be before the usual August date.
5. You will use these grades for your future entry to College, 6<sup>th</sup> form or whatever your chosen path is- they will be treated the same as if you had got them in an exam.

**If you are unhappy with your grade then you will be able to take the exam in the autumn but we don't yet have any information about when that will be or where it will take place.**

I know there are still some unanswered questions but as soon as I know anything I will tell you about it. Meanwhile, start looking at some of the resources we are sending out around A-level courses to help you be prepared for the next stage in your education. If you have a look at the 'Home Learning' tab on the school website you will see some resources are there already and we will keep adding more.

All the staff at Birley miss you and we're thinking about you. We're busy thinking about the celebration event that we will have when we are all out of lockdown.

Take care, stay safe and try not to worry.

Sincerely,

Gina Newton