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04 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin preparations to welcome year 11 and 13 back to the academy from the 8 March and resume face to face teaching, the government have published some details regarding the awarding of examination grades this summer. It is our priority to ensure that no student will be disadvantaged by the impact of the pandemic and I feel confident that by working together we can ensure that every young person gets the grades and recognition they deserve.

The guidance released by the government states that students will be awarded grades that are determined by teachers based on a range of evidence including students completing questions provided by the exam boards. The academy will need to submit grades based on evidence to exam boards by 18 June 2021.

In the time remaining before 18 June, we propose to give students multiple opportunities to provide evidence to support teachers in determining their grades. Any assessment will be based on work that students have already studied. Teachers will continue working with students throughout this time to ensure that they are able to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding to the best of their ability and to allow us to make informed decisions about the grades we enter.

It is essential that all students in these year groups attend the academy and engage fully with the teaching and learning activities that take place, so that they perform well during evidence collection activities which in turn will support us with awarding students with the grades that they deserve. Any future evidence collection activities will be conducted in conditions that ensure fairness and consistency so that students can perform at their best. It is important to note that any assessment material we collect from now until 18 June may be used as part of the teacher's validation of the grade that is awarded.

We will continue to work tirelessly to support students and endeavour to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the grading processes in place this year. With your continued support and the outstanding effort we have seen of students during these challenging times I am confident that students will be incredibly successful once again this year.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the academy

Yours sincerely

Darren Gelder
Principal, Grace Academy Solihull