



# Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise  
Centre of Excellence for Learning

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7 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 11/13 students

Yesterday in his speech to the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Education confirmed that GCSEs and A-levels in England will not go ahead this year. Instead, grades will be awarded through teacher assessments, a link to his full speech is below.

[statement to the House of Commons](#)

I am sure you are as frustrated as I am that this announcement has been made without the detail of how the teacher assessment process will take place. A full consultation from Ofqual with all key stakeholders will now take place, but this is likely to take several weeks to complete, schools will also be given support and training to ensure fairness and consistency across the country.

I do not know if the process will be the same as we used last year, but I am sure that we will be asked to make judgement on likely GCSE/A Level outcomes based on hard evidence, which of course includes assessment outcomes. I would hope that final outcomes will be based on a range of data that we regularly analyse and could include weekly assessments, homework, projects as well as the key mock/end of year exams.

I sincerely hope that I have greater clarity on the process as soon as possible, but for now it is essential that Y11 and Y13 students continue to work incredibly hard. We still have many months of learning and assessment to go, every assessment outcome could be vital in calculating final grades. It is not too late to significantly improve outcomes!

Can I also please ask parents and students to not ask teachers about what grade they will be awarded, it is far too early to discuss this as we have no detail on the process yet, it should also be noted that last year there was strict confidentiality around this. However, I must stress that there will be external checking processes on final grades awarded so we must ensure we have qualitative data to back up our decisions.

I, and all the staff, share your concerns and anxiety following the recent change in policy, but rest assured we will do everything possible to support our Year 11/13 students through the coming months.

Yours faithfully

**Mr M Harper**  
**Headteacher**

Beauchamps Drive, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8LY  
Telephone: 01268 735466 Facsimile: 01268 570981

Email: [admin@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk)

Web address: [www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](http://www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk) Twitter: [@Beauchampssch](https://twitter.com/Beauchampssch)

[www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk/gdpr/](http://www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk/gdpr/)

Headteacher: Mr M Harper BA Hons NPQH