



**KING EDWARD VI  
BALAAM WOOD  
ACADEMY**

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**KING EDWARD VI  
ACADEMY TRUST  
BIRMINGHAM**

29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**IMPORTANT – please read carefully**

We are writing to update you on the current situation regarding Year 11 in relation to the importance of your child working from home and how GCSE grades will be awarded this summer.

As you will already be aware, the Government have taken the decision to cancel the formal GCSE and BTEC examinations and have released a consultation document setting out their proposals for how grades will be awarded. You will have received a communication from Mr McGarvey last week where he signposted you to a recording he has placed on the Year 11 Remote Learning TEAMS group where the proposals are outlined. We would recommend strongly that you view the recording.

Whilst the outcomes of the consultation have yet to be decided the Department for Education (DfE) have been clear that this year's grades will be awarded based on a variety of evidence available to the academy. The grade awarded will reflect the level at which the pupil is working at the point of grade submission.

Therefore, it is essential that all pupils build up a portfolio of evidence that teachers can use to award a grade. ***The current work a pupil is doing remotely will play a large part in the evidence base.*** It is essential that pupils are completing online tasks to the best of their ability. It is not an option for pupils to opt-out of completing the tasks as this will impact directly upon the final awarded grade.

Over the coming two weeks, staff will be entering data to reflect the progress of your child. This data will cover:

- The GCSE / BTEC grade your child is currently working at
- The GCSE / BTEC grade your child is likely to receive at the end of the course based on their current rate of progress
- The attitude to learning shown by your child - this will in large part be based on how they have applied themselves to their remote learning.

After half term, we will have an online parent/carer consultation event. This will be with a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will review the progress of your child and discuss any actions which need to take place. We will also be in a position to confirm the outcome of the DFE consultation by that point.

As an academy, we are very aware of the challenges our pupils and families face. I would remind you that teachers are available on TEAMS at the timetabled slot for all lessons and can be contacted through the chat function. If there is anything that you are struggling with then do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr A Stooksbury  
Lead Practitioner**

Headteacher: Mr D. McGarvey

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