

To: Parents/Carers of Year 10 RS Students

Our ref: 8765036

24 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Re: Year 10 RS GCSE Grades 2021

I am writing to update you about the awarding of grades this summer. As you may be aware, it has been decided that students completing the additional Religious Studies GCSE in Year 10 will be awarded a teacher-assessed grade in the summer. As I write, schools have still not been given final guidance on how grades will be determined this summer, but we feel it is only fair that we inform you of our initial plans based on the **draft** guidance that has been given to us.

Schools have been asked to submit grades to the exam boards in June for the Religious Studies qualification. These grades will be quality assured internally, using a rigorous process that will have to be signed off by the exam boards. Exam boards will then quality assure these grades externally, which may include random sampling of our evidence base for these grades. Once exam boards are happy with the accuracy of our submission, the exam board will then award students their final grades.

In the draft guidance, teachers have been asked to assess students using “*evidence of a student’s performance from throughout the course... including evidence produced in the coming months*”. We will use a range of evidence to assess students, some of which has already been produced as part of the course, and some of which will be produced between now and June.

This evidence may include:

- Exam questions already completed and marked
- Mini mock exams and/or assessments already completed
- In-class assessments that will take place after Easter, some of which may include materials released by the exam boards at Easter

We expect to be able to provide students with a detailed list of evidence for our subject as soon as possible after Easter, and students will be able to see their evidence folders before they are made available to exam boards for inspection.

We feel that it is only fair that students are given the opportunity to show what they have learnt, and what knowledge and skills they have acquired through their hard work. Therefore students will sit in-class assessments during the weeks after the Easter holidays. These assessments will contain a broad range of content and will be based on exam board materials. We will let students know what topics they should revise over the Easter holidays this week. Consequently, in accordance with government guidance, no new topics will be started with our students.

Students will be provided with additional revision materials on all units covered to complete their revision. These assessments will be completed in the after-school sessions after Easter, running as usual from 3:30-5:00pm, so attendance is vital.

I would like to stress that these in-class assessments will form **part** of the evidence for grades, **not all** of it. Equally, we will not base results entirely on work or assessments students have already done. Students will have further opportunities to demonstrate what they know and what they can do through these in-class assessments.

Please be assured that students will be treated fairly and none of our students will be disadvantaged by not taking exams as normal. This includes where students have to isolate, or where they are currently shielding on advice from their GP as part of the current national restrictions.

In the meantime, students should continue to work hard, act on feedback from ourselves and revise content already learnt in order to give themselves the best possible chance of maximising their grade in the summer. We recommend students using the revision materials we have provided, as well as any revision materials they have purchased from the school or from the suggestions below:

- GCSE Pod- students to register with their school emails if they haven't already
- Quizlet- <https://quizlet.com/MissMooneyRS-> all but the Theme D keywords

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Katie Mooney
Subject Leader for Religious Studies