



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Teacher-assessed grades for GCSEs and A Levels at Anthem schools**

I hope that the return to school has been a smooth one for all our students, and thank you for the support you have given them while they have been learning at home.

I am writing to you regarding this summer's GCSE and A Level qualifications. As you are aware, we are in an unusual situation due to the amount of time that students have spent out of school. As a result, the Department for Education has decided that students' grades will be determined by teacher assessment within school. These assessments will be supported by guidance from the examination boards.

### **How will work be assessed?**

In Anthem secondary schools, students will be assessed through a portfolio of four pieces of assessed work. This work will be based on the curriculum that students have covered up until this point; they will not be assessed on course content missed due to Covid-19. While this work will be completed in school under controlled conditions, we are not expecting students to complete examinations. Every effort will be made to ensure that students are able to showcase their skills and learning to date.

The work completed for this portfolio will be carefully devised using the guidance offered by examination boards and supported by professional learning networks across the Trust. Where coursework forms part of a KS4/KS5 course, students will be given the opportunity to complete this wherever practically possible.

Please see the deadlines for completing assessments below:

- First piece of work for portfolio submitted by **31 March**
- Two further pieces of work completed by **21 May**

We are confident that spacing students' work over four pieces of work and a two-month period will allow students to showcase their learning to the best of their abilities.

### **Moderation**

To ensure that students' work is assessed accurately, schools will use the supportive materials provided by the examination boards to support all marking and grading. In addition, work will be moderated by a team of subject experts from across all five Anthem secondary schools. This moderation process will be supported by trained examiners wherever possible.

### **When will students find out their grades?**

Results Day 2021 will take place on **Tuesday, 10 August for A Levels and Thursday, 12 August for GCSEs**. Schools will submit their grades and their evidence for these grades to the examination boards by **Friday, 18 June**.

Schools will be permitted to share their evidence with students before submitting these grades and this should provide students with a good indication of their performance. It should be noted, however, that examination boards will be performing their own moderation processes, so no grades will be final until they are announced on 10 and 12 August.

### **What if a student is unhappy with their grade?**

If a student believes the grade they have been given is unfair, they may discuss this with their teacher in the first instance who will be able to demonstrate how this grade has been arrived at. If necessary, the portfolio of evidence may be further scrutinised by a school and/or Trust moderation panel and further evidence (such as classwork and remote learning) used to determine whether a change in grade is justified.

If the evidence provided is sufficient but a student is still unhappy with their grade, there will be opportunities to resit qualifications in November 2021.

### **What if a student is unable to attend an assessment due to Covid-19?**

All our schools have contingency plans in place to support students who are unable to attend schools due to self-isolation or shielding. These plans will vary depending on the individual student's situation, but it is an absolute priority that none of our students are disadvantaged due to health concerns surrounding Covid-19 restrictions.

We realise that this is a very uncertain time and would like to thank you for your support in ensuring all our students are able to feel confident and secure as they complete this stage of their education.

We are extremely proud of the resilience and determination they have shown throughout the past year and we are sure they will carry this resilience with them through the final leg of their examination year.

Yours sincerely



**Andy Yarrow**  
**Chief Executive**