



**Buckler's Mead**  
ACADEMY

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## Educating with care to succeed

PB/CH/00104  
22 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

### Year 11 Update

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. Please read the information below regarding important updates for you and your child.

### GCSE Grades

I would like to update you regarding the announcement made by Ofqual detailing how GCSE grades will be awarded this summer. Please be advised that the announcement below is Ofqual's proposed approach which is open for consultation with schools. Once this consultation is finished, Ofqual will publish the final arrangements.

- Students will continue with their education for the rest of this academic year.
- A student's grade in each subject will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing. Each grade should indicate a student's demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills. This means teachers' grades will be different from predicted grades.
- Students will be able to appeal if their final grade does not reflect the evidence or standard at which they were performing when the grades were submitted. Please note that this does not mean that students can appeal if they are unhappy or disagree with the grade given.
- Students would be examined/assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May/early June using exam board set papers. These papers will take place in school, but if it is not possible to do so due to the pandemic, these papers could be completed at an alternative venue, including a student's home, where that is an option.
- Ofqual is considering whether or not these set papers should be mandatory or optional for schools. The purpose of these papers will be to allow students across the country to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in a common format.
- Teachers will make evidence-based decisions for each grade, taking into account a breadth of evidence including the exams/assessments detailed above. Ofqual has suggested that evidence for grades will be based on formal tests, mock examinations and substantial pieces of work completed by each candidate.
- Exam boards will provide guidance, training and support to schools to help them with this process.
- Teachers will be asked to submit grades to the exam boards by mid-June. These will then be checked and quality assured by examination boards. Results will then be issued to students once the quality assurance process is completed. This will most likely take place in early July.
- Similar arrangements will be in place for BTEC and other Technical or Vocational qualifications.



Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

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Buckler's Mead Academy will be participating in the Ofqual consultation and will continue to liaise with all examination boards. Once final guidance is given, we will endeavour to update you as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be working with our staff to put in place opportunities for students to prepare for and produce work as evidence to support any final grading, this includes the Virtual Mock Examinations taking place next week (see below for update). Our advice to all students in Year 11 is to continue to participate in lessons, submit work, revise for exams and to their very best to build a strong evidence base to support grades.

### **Virtual Mock Examinations**

The Examinations will be taking place next week (Please see attached timetable for more details). Following on from the information that was sent on Tuesday, please see the additional guidance below:

- Timetabled lessons will be postponed next week. Students should use the time when not in exams to revise and prepare.
- Teachers will be available via Google Classroom to respond to questions or queries during the day.
- All students must add themselves to the Year 11 Virtual Mock Exam classroom and completed the trial exam to familiarise themselves with the software. Students should also sign the agreement form to say that all work will be their own.
- Students should go to the Virtual Mock Examination google classroom 15 minutes before each exam to receive the link and Key Code for the Mock they are about to sit.
- Students should also open the Google Meet Link, turn off camera and mute sound and mic. This will be used to communicate with an invigilator if there is an urgent issue that requires help.
- All examinations will be taking place on Exam.net except Mathematics who will be using DrFrost. Students will be expected to log in to Google Classroom at the beginning of all examinations, set up Google Meet and then log into the exam website.
- For general, non-urgent questions/queries during the exam, students should contact the invigilator using the teacher chat button on Exam.net.
- All students must make sure they are able to use the QR code function on phones in case they are requested to upload work. (see guidance on Google Classroom on how to do this)

We wish all Year 11s the best of luck in these exams and like to remind them that this should be seen as an opportunity to show off what they can do. If you have any questions or require assistance at any point next week, please get in contact via main reception.

### **Post 16 Pathways and Options**

It is typical for students in Year 11 during the spring term to finalise plans for their next steps beyond the academy. Over the coming weeks and months, all students should give careful thought and spend time investigating pathways and submitting applications. This will also help to provide students with a clear idea of what they will need to do to secure a place on their chosen course or placement.

In order to support your son/daughter, our careers team will be making contact with all students in Year 11 before the end of February to discuss, give advice and offer support. In the meantime, if you require any further information or guidance, please visit the careers page on our website by using the link below.

<https://bucklersmead.com/careers-advice/>

Our Careers Coordinator, Mrs Howe, is also available if you have a questions or queries via email [rhowe@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:rhowe@bucklersmeadacademy.com).

Thank you for your continued support as well as the positive feedback and messages we have received. I hope that this letter provides you with further guidance and information to support your child. If you have a further questions or queries, please feel free to make contact either through your child's tutor or via main reception.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Balkwill  
Acting Deputy Head

**YEAR 11  
VIRTUAL MOCK EXAMS  
JANUARY 2021**

	<b>Time including submission</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Monday 25 Jan</b>		
08.30-10.45	2 hour + 15 minute submission (2hr 15)	Maths Paper 1- Non Calculator
11.30-1.45	2 hour + 15 minute submission time (2hr 15)	Geography Paper
2:30-4:15	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submission time (1hr45)	Computer Science
<b>Tuesday 26 Jan</b>		
08.30 – 10.15	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submission time (1hr45)	Religious Studies/Citizenship
11.30-12.45	45 minutes + 15 minute submission time (1hr)	Science Paper 1
2.00-3.45	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submission time (1hr45)	Science Paper 2
<b>Wednesday 27 Jan</b>		
08.30 – 10.45	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submission (2hr15)	Maths Paper 2- Calculator
12.00-2.15	2 hour + 15 minute submission time (2hr15)	History Paper
<b>Thursday 28 Jan</b>		
8:30-10:30	1 hour 45 + 15 minute submissions time (2hrs)	English Language Paper 1
11:30-1.45	2 hour + 15 minute submissions time (2hrs15)	French/German Reading & Writing
2:30-4:15	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submission (1hr45)	BTEC Engineering Design Technology
<b>Friday 29 Jan</b>		
09.00 – 11.00	1 hour 45 + 15 minute submissions time (2hrs)	English Language Paper 2
12.00-1.45	1 hour 30 + 15 minute submissions time(1hr45)	Media Studies/Business Studies/Food Preparation