



THE DEAN TRUST
Believe Achieve Succeed

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Chairman: Mr Damian McGann

18th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope that this communication finds you and your families well.

I would firstly like to inform you that the joint Ofqual and DfE consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021, has now opened.

More information about this consultation can be found at [How GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 \(HTML\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021) and the online consultation feedback form is located at [Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

Please be assured that The Dean Trust will be providing a response as part of the consultation in an attempt to ensure that a realistic, achievable and fair process takes place. Most importantly, a process that will allow our pupils to achieve grades that they deserve and will take them to the next stage of their educational pathway.

The government has confirmed that the national Free School Meal Voucher scheme is to be resurrected. This means that families of pupils who are entitled to free school meals will be able to access either an eCode or a voucher, to the value of £15 per eligible child per week, to redeem at a local supermarket. Eligible families will receive more information from your child's school.

If you have not already done so, parents and carers of our secondary school pupils will shortly be receiving an update regarding the onsite lateral flow device testing which is currently in place for consenting pupils and staff who attend school. In summary, whilst the testing of pupils and staff returning from lockdown to school (two lateral flow device tests in a 3 to 5 day period) and weekly staff testing will continue, continuous seven day testing of close contacts of a positive case will be paused. This means that anyone identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate at home for ten days.

We have made considerable progress in ensuring that our pupils have digital devices and 4G so that they can access the blend of remote learning activities set by our schools. Should you be experiencing any challenges around your child being able to access your school's remote learning offer, please do not hesitate to contact your school. May we also ask that you continue to encourage your child to access the work that is being set, attempt it to the best of their ability, and to talk about their learning with you.

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child's learning and/or welfare please contact your school for support.

Best wishes,

Tarun Kapur CBE
Chief Executive

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