



# St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

Headteacher Mrs B A McLaughlin

Fossedale Avenue, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9LS  
Telephone 0117 377 2050 Fax 0117 377 2054

[www.stbems.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.stbems.bristol.sch.uk)  
[info@stbems.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbems.bristol.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I want to communicate how proud we have been of the hard work and dedication displayed by Year 11 students throughout their time at St Bernadette. Despite the fact that they will not be able to sit their examinations in the summer they should all be proud of the academic progress that they have made and the way in which they have developed as young people at St. Bernadette.

I also want to share with you a brief update on the awarding of grades for Year 11 students who were due to take their GCSE examinations in the summer and spotlight grades. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak you will be aware that the summer examination series has been cancelled, as Mrs McLaughlin has made reference to in previous communications.

We await further guidance as to the precise manner in which grades will be awarded, the Department of Education has informed us that they expect a decision to be made in April in this regard.

The Department for Education has communicated that students will not be disadvantaged by this process and that it is likely some sort of teacher assessment will be used alongside mock performance, non-assessed work and prior attainment. They have also stated that where students would like to take their exams they would be given the earliest possible opportunity once schools reopen. As well as this students will also have the opportunity to take their KS4 exams in Summer 2021.

As such I highly recommend that students keep hold of all learning materials, exercise books and returned mock papers. Please DO NOT return these to the school until we communicate with you that we are able to, or need to receive them. Even if these books are not required by the school, they are useful in helping to prepare students for the next stage of their education and revision for those students who wish to retake any KS4 qualifications.

At this time of year you would usually have received a spotlight 4 internal grade. Due to the circumstances we will not be issuing these grades as our staff await guidance on how to issue GCSE grades in accordance with yet to be released OFQUAL guidance. Likewise, due to the circumstances we will not be in a position to release mock grades until after the Easter holiday. We thank you for your patience during this challenging time.

The full details of the latest Department for Education update can be found [here](#). We will keep you updated as new information becomes available.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Walker  
Deputy Headteacher