



## THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headmaster: James Priory MA

*ljw*

25 May 2011

To all Year 10 parents

Dear Parent

Your son/daughter will have the Year 10 examination results. The grades are the subject teacher's assessment of the pupil's current performance level according to the GCSE criteria. In subjects with coursework and/or Controlled Assessments, a pupil's performance in these, as well as the Year 10 exams, may have been taken into account in the awarding of the grades. Pupils maintaining good effort and progress may well achieve higher grades in their GCSEs. GCSE grades range from A\*-G. A grade C and above is considered a 'good' pass.'

In order to better assist you in interpreting your son/daughter's performance in relation to the actual GCSEs, I enclose an explanation of the grades awarded by subject.

The forthcoming Parents' Evening on 15 June will be the ideal opportunity to discuss any queries or concerns you have with your child's tutor, Head of House and subject teachers. If you have any immediate issues you would like to raise, please do this by completing the feedback form that accompanies the grades/contacting your child's Tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

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## **Notes on Year 10 examination grades 2011**

### **Art**

The exam grade is based on pupils' progress with their 'Propaganda' controlled assessment project. During the controlled time, the pupils worked on personal outcomes, which have been assessed in conjunction with their preparation work. This project is part of the pupils' coursework which accounts for 60% of the overall GCSE.

### **Business Studies**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in a written paper, incorporating topics covered in the Business Studies Paper 2 (Business and People) and a limited selection of Marketing questions. It does not reflect provisional marks for the Controlled Assessment, which account for 25% of the overall GCSE in this subject.

### **Classical Civilisation**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in the examination only. Terminal examinations account for 75% of the overall GCSE grade and Controlled Assessment accounts for 25%.

### **Design and Technology**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in the examination. There are no Controlled Assessments.

### **Drama**

The grade is based on the pupils' performance in the written paper (worth 40% of the overall GCSE) and two practical pieces (60% of the overall GCSE grade).

### **English**

The grade for English Language is based on pupils' performance in English Language Paper 1, which accounts for 70% of the overall English Language IGCSE.

### **Food and Nutrition**

The grade is based on the two papers taken as terminal exams, which together account for 40% of the overall GCSE grade. Controlled Assessments account for the remaining 60% of the overall grade.

### **Geography**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in the one paper taken as a terminal exam (which accounts for 50% of the overall GCSE). Controlled Assessment accounts for 25% of the GCSE and the Sustainable Decision Making Exercise (SDME) accounts for a further 25%. The results for these two elements are due in March of Year 11.

### **Greek**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in the examination. There are no Controlled Assessments.

### **History**

The grade is based on pupils' performance in the examination. The Controlled Assessment, taken in the Autumn Term of Year 11, which accounts for 25% of the marks, is not included in these results.

### **Latin**

The grade is based on performance in the examination. There are no Controlled Assessments.

### **Mathematics**

The grade is based on examination performance only. IGCSE is a terminally examined subject; there is no Controlled Assessment or coursework component.

### **Music**

The grade is based upon the marks for the listening and set works examination (40% of the overall GCSE) and the marks for the composition and performance components which are assessed internally (30% each of the overall GCSE).

### **Modern Languages**

The weighting for the four skills required for GCSE is listening (20%), speaking (30%), reading (20%) and writing (30%). Speaking and writing are assessed by Controlled Assessment (pupils normally submit the best two of three pieces in each of these) and are not included in the Year 10 grades. The details of the Year 10 exams in each Modern Language are given below with the weightings given in brackets.

### **French**

The exam grade is based on the three skills of listening (30%), reading (30%) and writing (40%). There will be a GCSE Speaking Controlled Assessment immediately following the Year 10 exams.

### **German**

The German grade is based on the pupils' performance in listening (25%), reading (25%), grammar (20%) and writing (30%). The speaking Controlled Assessment taken last term has not been taken into consideration for the purposes of the exam grade.

### **Spanish**

The Spanish grade is based on pupils' performance in listening (30%), reading (30%) and grammar (40%) examinations.

### **Philosophy and Religious Studies**

The grade is based on exam performance only. There is no coursework component in the GCSE.

## **Sciences**

The exam grades are based on pupils' performance in examinations in all three sciences. Terminal examinations account for 75% of the overall GCSE grade. Pupils will also complete Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA), which account for 25% of the overall GCSE in each subject.

For pupils taking Physics IGCSE, the exam grade reflects the full assessment requirements as there is no coursework component. However, as this is a new course, a specimen paper was used for the exam and there were no published grade boundaries to which to refer so the department calculated their own.