

24 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

You will already be aware of the decision not to proceed with the summer examinations in England this summer, following the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Education on Wednesday 18 March 2020.

The Secretary of State for Education has now published a statement (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>) outlining the key aspects of the process, which will involve the use of teacher judgements.

GCSE and A-level Qualifications:

Schools have been advised that teacher judgements will be based on the overall qualification grade each learner is likely to achieve at the end of their course of study. This will be based on their performance across a range of formative and summative assessments, including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. Teacher judgements, for this purpose, are not ambitious grades that learners might aspire to achieve, but are the grades the learners would have achieved if the exams had gone ahead.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in. The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.

In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. They will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

Vocational, Technical and other Academic Qualifications:

There are a very wide range of different vocational and technical qualifications as well as other academic qualifications for which students were expecting to sit exams this summer. These are offered by a large number of awarding organisations, and have differing assessment approaches – in many cases students will already have completed modules or non-exam assessment which could provide evidence to award a grade. Ofqual is working urgently with the sector to explore options and we will work with them to provide more details shortly. However, it should be noted that students may continue to work on internally assessed units at home under the guidance of their teacher. This can be marked and taken into consideration when assigning a final grade.

Year 11 Work

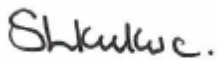
Where teachers had not completed courses before the closure, we are uploading work to the SharePoint area. It is important that students continuing with subject areas in the Sixth Form and at Colleges complete this work to ensure they are not disadvantaged. We are also going to provide "Bridging Work" in subject areas, as we do each year, to ease the transition from GCSE into A-level. This will be available in the next few weeks.

If a young person does believe they may wish to take up the opportunity to sit an examination in a later sitting we would recommend that they continue with their revision at this time. Please note, we do not yet have any details about these proposed examinations.

We understand that this is a stressful time, and we want to reassure parents that we will follow the guidance given to us, when it is received, about making teacher judgements.

We will continue to update parents and students as we receive information from the Examination Boards.

Yours faithfully



Susanne Kukuc
Headteacher