

24 March 2020

Exams and Assessments

Dear Parents,

Following the decision to close schools and not go ahead with this summer's exams, the picture as to how grades will be awarded is becoming clearer, though many details are still being worked on.

This guidance applies to GCSEs and Vocational Qualifications (BTECs & OCR)

The process for calculating and awarding grades will be done according to the following general process:

- Exam boards will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- 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.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. These grades would carry the same legal status as grades awarded in previous years.
- We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.
- It needs to be heavily stressed that this teacher assessment is **not necessarily** the grade a student will be awarded.
- For applied general qualifications (BTECs & OCR), coursework that has already been completed could also be included - the technicalities of this are still being worked on.
- If a student was unhappy with their grade they have a number of options:
 - If students do not believe the correct process has been followed they can appeal. Appeals will not be on the basis of a judgement made by the teacher or the information used by the board but merely if the correct process has been applied in a particular case. I expect appeal option will be very limited.

- A student can opt to sit an exam in Autumn 2020 - the timing of this will depend on how the current situation unfolds but if done early enough there is the possibility that grades could be awarded in time for progression, perhaps a little late, to university that same term.

What Should Students Do Now?

The School will ensure a fair and moderated process is in place and your teachers will make their assessments on the basis of the evidence available as to the quality of work you do and continue to do. Your teachers are very professional and highly ethical and, whilst wanting to do the best for you, will always do what is right.

Thank you for your continued support in these extraordinary circumstances.



Helen Johnson

Headteacher