



23rd March 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

GCSE and A Levels Summer 2020

You will know that this summer's A-levels and GCSEs have been cancelled. On Friday the Government announced its plans for assessing students in the absence of these examinations. We have summarised the press release below and you will also find the link to the full article at the end of this letter.

Assessment of Students' Work

The school will submit a GCSE and A Level grade that reflects what the student would have achieved, had they sat the exams this summer – we have not been told how we should do this yet. This may not necessarily be the final grade the student receives from the exam board (see below):

- More information will be provided to schools on how exactly these will be calculated
- Exam boards will combine the school submitted grade with other factors to reach a final grade. These factors will include prior attainment (eg. KS2 SATS for Year 11 and GCSEs for Year 13) and grade distribution from previous years (ie. At GCSE Exam Boards would want to award similar numbers of grade 9s, grade 8s, grade 7s etc., as in 2019, and for A Level they would also want a similar distribution of grades as in previous years).

What and When?

- These grades will be given to students before the end of July
- The certificates students receive will be no different from any other year (ie. future employers will not know students did not sit exams)
- Students will be able to appeal decisions on their outcomes if they feel the process has not been followed correctly
- Students will have the opportunity to sit exams if they are not happy with their results either when schools reopen or in the summer of 2021

Our Recommended Next Steps for students

- Any unfinished coursework that can be completed at home, should be, and be submitted to your teacher as soon as possible via Show My Homework or email
- Do not stop studying – you may be in a position where you wish to sit exams when schools reopen; and you need to maintain good working habits for your next steps in education or employment

Year 13 ought to continue working as you might wish to sit an exam when school reopens or Summer 2021 if you are unhappy with your calculated grade in July.

Year 12 will have a UCAS predicted grade test early in the Autumn term, so it is vital to continue working through the specifications. There is no change in the working approach required of Year 12. There will also be some life-skills material to complete in due course

Year 11 need to continue working - you may be in a position where you wish to sit exams when schools reopen. Year 11 will also be issued with bridging work for sixth form in due course. Year 11 will be informed when this is ready throughout the Summer term

BTEC National students in Year 12 need to working through their Units and submitting coursework where required. **Year 13** need to complete existing Units and be ready to submit work if and when required.

- Keep up to date with news on education – information is being updated frequently
Look out for communication from the school – we will continue to summarise information that affects you

I hope to also provide further detail about transition arrangements to sixth form and universities, once the examination assessment arrangements have been clarified by the Government.

Please do not email your teachers about grades. They have the same information as you and we are waiting further guidance. Thank you for your patience in this.

Here is a link to the guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

A Googleform will be issued shortly to Year 11, 12 and 13 which will invite you to submit your general questions. An FAQs response will be issued once we have considered the frequent concerns.

Stay safe and adhere to government guidance on social distancing

Yours sincerely,



Alex Thomas
Headteacher