

26 March 2020

Dear Year 13 Students

These are exceptional times for everyone, not just for young people like you, and we all need to play our part. Make sure that first and foremost you are adhering to Government advice and guidelines on social distancing, isolation if you need to, and hygiene measures that protect us all. Do not put yourselves or others at risk of infection. Your health and the health of family, friends and your community is paramount.

For Year 13 this is an uncertain time. You will all be going through different emotions at the prospect of not sitting exams. You and your teachers have been planning for these exams for years and suddenly you are being denied that opportunity. You are being deprived of your chance to prove that you can succeed in one of the world's toughest set of exams. You are being denied your leavers' day, the chance to say goodbye and properly thank your teachers and peers. The summer's leavers' events have been postponed but not cancelled – we will still say goodbye properly at some stage.

Remember that there are hundreds of thousands of students in the same position as you; not that this will make you feel better; it will merely reassure you that you are not alone. The situation is unprecedented but we have to accept that events are outside our control but normality will return and your futures will be assured. As a nation we cannot afford for you not to go to university or not to have successful careers.

The Government priority, and The Chalfonts Community College shares this, is to ensure that no young person faces a barrier when it comes to moving onto the next stage of their lives; whether that is university, college or employment. As a school we want to ensure that you all have bright futures and that no-one is disadvantaged as a result of this international crisis.

You will be awarded a grade this summer by the exam boards, not by The Chalfonts Community College. The grade should reflect the work that you have put in. The Chalfonts Community College, like every school in the country, will make a judgement about the grade that we believe you would have received if exams had gone ahead. We will know more about the exact method of doing this on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 following a Government announcement to all educational settings. We do know however, that it will be objective and robust. As a school, we have collated data and evidence over the last two years and we always ask teachers for a Final Predicted Grade; much of which is based on mock/trial exams; coursework for BTEC and non-exam assessments.

Most of you will feel disappointed that you have not been able to sit your exams. If you do not believe the correct process has been followed you will be able to appeal the decision. Equally, if you do not feel your calculated grade reflects your performance, you will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. You will also have the option to sit exams in the summer of 2021.

For those of you completing the level 3 Beauty Diploma, please note that you cannot automatically be awarded a pass due to the vocational nature of this qualification. You are likely to have to complete assessments and online exams before being awarded a final grade. Further information about this will be shared by Mrs Rayner and the Beauty Team once more clarification had been sought.



POWERED BY



*Principal: Russell Denial*



Please be mindful that Students are not going to all suddenly achieve grades A and A\*s this year – the results have to follow the patterns of previous years. Students whose work has been exceptional throughout their course should not feel hard done by as this will be reflected in the calculated grades; keep proving that this is correct and accurate by ensuring that you continue to work hard during this period of distant learning. Your teachers will continue setting and grading formal assessments over the coming weeks until we have clarity from the Government as to how we make the judgements.

For the extended project and all vocational subjects, you must continue submitting assignments and assessments on time as these may be the only evidence that we have to present to the exam board. You will all have different circumstances and we will try to reassure you as best we can. If you get a grade this summer that you disagree with, you will be able to either:

- Appeal against the decision;
- Sit your exams at the earliest reasonable opportunity- possibly September. While it cannot be guaranteed in every circumstance, Universities UK has assured us that the majority of universities will show the utmost flexibility to ensure that such students who take this option are able to begin their course with a delayed start time. If a student is in this circumstance, they should speak to the university from which they have an offer after receiving their calculated grade.
- Sit exams in 2021.

University representatives have already confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education and university. The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted.

Universities should not begin making new unconditional offers and students should feel no pressure to accept such offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each exam they would have taken.

The universities will communicate directly with students and each is likely to have a slightly different message. Some may extend the use of the unconditional offer; they may still be actively recruiting students. These universities may not have over offered places, meaning that they can accept all students they have offered places to.

The most competitive universities and courses have a mechanism for selecting their students; a fair and robust examination system. That necessity will not go away and these universities physically cannot accept all student on an unconditional offer. They will need to trust the grades issued this summer however they are determined.

We hope that this has/will have clarified a few questions that you may have with regards to next steps; once we have more information we will share this with you. In the meantime; please continue to work hard and do the very best you can despite the challenging circumstances we're all facing.

Kind regards

**Russell Denial**  
**Principal**

**Victoria Lang**  
**Vice-Principal**



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