

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all well and safe and looking after each other.

I write at the end of the strangest term ever experienced in education. We, like other schools, are adapting to on line learning and working and thank you for the feedback we have received. I am sure that over the coming weeks after the Easter holidays, things will run even smoother. I will note that as it is the Easter holidays, staff will not be setting additional homework/class work other than what may have been set usually at this period in time.

A little while ago, Sally Collier, Ofqual's Chief Regulator made the following statement in regards to how students will be assessed this summer. Rather than paraphrase, here is the statement;

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

### How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

### Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.



POWERED BY



*Principal: Russell Denial*

### **Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?**

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

### **I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?**

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades. We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

### **When will I get my results?**

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

### **Can I take my exams another time?**

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks. The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our detailed guidance; along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish, Sally Collier, Chief Regulator, Ofqual

As you can see, there is clear information in regards to our examination years and that schools will not be required to source additional work. Any work that has been completed will support the school and teachers in making judgements in final assessment grades so please do not worry. After the Easter break, we will look at transition work for our Year 11 students to ensure that they are prepared for post 16 study and information on how to access this will follow. We will also continue to support all other years in the school with a focus on year 10 and year 12 to ensure that course content is covered appropriately.

On a final note, last week we donated 200 goggles to the front line ICU staff at Wexham Park Hospital. Have a look at our Twitter feed to see this story and any other work that the school is doing!

Please take care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr R Denial**  
**Principal**