

Monday, 23rd March 2020

Dear Yr11, 12 and 13 students, and Parents,

Summer 2020 Final 'Exam' Grades

The Government took the decision to cancel all the exams this summer due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and stated that students will still be awarded grades for the exams they had been entered for. The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives.

We are awaiting the details of how the Government, along with Ofqual and Awarding Bodies, will award these grades. We have been told that the grades awarded will fairly reflect the work they have put in. There will also be an option for students to sit exams early in the next academic year for students who wish to, or students can sit exams in Summer 2021. Ofqual 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 the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. This calculated grade is likely to include PPE results, Non-Exam assessments (coursework) and prior data, and the 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.

As a school, we have told teachers not to respond to communications from students and parents about their thoughts on these grades as this is unfair on the teachers as it adds to the difficult task they already have having to work in this current situation. Of course, students and parents may be concerned about this process, but until there is clarity on this process, we ask that you do respect this request and do not contact teachers asking questions about grades.

We have been told that the aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. These grades will be indistinguishable from grades awarded in other years and the distribution of the grades will follow similar patterns as previous years meaning students are not disadvantaged as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

There will be an appeals process put in place if students feel the grade awarded does not reflect their performance.

Universities have confirmed that they will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress on to higher education.

We will keep updating the information in this letter as we receive it.

All the best,

Mr B Pointon
Deputy Headteacher