

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents and Carers,

As you know, we have been waiting for the announcement from the exam boards about how pupils will get their GCSE and A level grades this summer. There was a government statement on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March about this, but as schools, we still require further guidance from the DFE and the exam regulators (Ofqual). We will hear more over the coming weeks. We know that the May and June exams will not take place but pupils will still get a GCSE or A level. The very difficult aspect is how these grades will be decided fairly across the country.

Further information on Friday confirmed the following:

- 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 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 review 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.
- 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.

This is as much as we know at this point. However, all the staff want to emphasise the importance of keeping learning going because learning is important in itself, not just for taking an exam.



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We appreciate that these are unprecedented times but it is important that our students continue to complete the work set as they will still be on A Level/college/university courses in September.

For Year 13 students, please follow the updates to the UCAS application process as outlined.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates>

For Year 11 students who have applied to attend Laureate Sixth Form. Our entry criteria for the sixth form is 5 GCSEs at a grade 4 or above. For those students who do achieve this in the GCSE awarding process, we will be happy to welcome them into the sixth form. Where students selected their subjects, these have been blocked into a timetable. Information about preparation for A Level studies and making the transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 will be emailed directly to parents.

I fully appreciate that our school closure has brought about an abrupt end to a time in one's schooling that should be celebrated and remembered. I want to re-assure all students that when we re-open, we will find a suitable time for Year 11 and Year 13 to engage in the traditional school-leaving rituals.

I am so sorry this has disrupted your last year at the Academy but please know that we will be doing all that we can to support you as you embark on new chapters in your lives.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
**Principal**