

6th April 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students,

Thank you for bearing with us in these uncertain times. As was confirmed by the Prime Minister two weeks ago, this year's public examinations for Year 11 and 13 students have been cancelled. The guidance about how student grades will be awarded has now been released.

Full guidance is available for parents and students to read online, and we recommend this as it gives you the most detailed picture of the process. It can be found [here](#).

However, we summarise below the main points to reassure you in this process.

- It is the priority of all schools across the country, as well as the exam boards, universities and colleges that this process be as fair as possible.
- Teachers will send assessment grades to the exam boards which will be based on a number of factors of student performance across the course (last two years for both Y11 and Y13.)
- These grades are not necessarily exactly the same as the students' target grades, nor are they the same as UCAS predictors for Y13.
- The school and members of staff cannot confirm to either staff or students the grades that they submit for each individual. We ask that no student or parent contacts teachers to try and find these out as we are now legally obliged not to share these.
- There will be a 'results day' when the grading information is released to students and universities. This will no longer be on Thursday 13th August (A levels) or Thursday 20th August (GCSEs). It is hoped that results day will now happen sooner so that students have some certainty and we await confirmation of the date.
- The exam boards will regulate all grades awarded to students. It is not possible for us to positively yet unrealistically inflate every student's grades. The grade distribution will be compared nationally, as well as within the school setting and with our students' prior attainment. In some cases, the grade awarded by the exam board will not be the same as that which the teacher has submitted.
- For all students in years 11 and 13, there is now no need for them to complete additional work or tasks for their teachers. Non-examined assessment (coursework) should be submitted or shared with the teacher in its current state. There is no requirement for more to be added to this.

We refer you to the letter sent by the principal on 24th March 2020, which reinforces the importance of learning during this time. While the students' studies have come to an abrupt end, there is importance in continuing academic endeavour, in preparation for the next phase which we all hope will be able to begin as intended in Autumn of this year. Information about the transition to Key Stage 5 from year 11 is to follow.



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Thank you for your ongoing support and patience during this unprecedented time. We understand that there will be a great deal of frustration for students, some of whom were looking forward to the chance to prove themselves in the public exams. We know that you understand our intention to give our students the most positive yet fairest grades possible in order to enable their opportunities going forward.

If you have specific concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Murphy

Assistant Principal