

Dear Parents / Carers

Following a very difficult time last week, I would first like to acknowledge the fortitude of both our Y11 and Y13 students in the trying and emotional circumstances. Following the announcement last week that the DfE will not be going ahead with external examinations and assessments this academic year, you, like us, will be concerned about what this means for your children, our students. For that reason, I include a brief outline of further government advice published on Friday, outlining the process by which students consequently will be awarded grades.

All GCSE, AS and A Level students are to be awarded a fair grade, which is representative of their work and effort. Examination boards, in the first instance, will ask teachers to submit grades for their students, which they believe they would have achieved. Following Ofqual guidance teachers will use a range of evidence, both formal and non-examination assessments. Guidance is to be issued to all schools to ensure that this is fair and robust. The examination boards will then use this information, along with prior attainment data, to calculate a grade. They aim to provide these grades before the end of July. Further detail to this announcement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

In addition to this, it is stated in the same announcement that:

“...if they (students) do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.” It would therefore be pragmatic to suggest that GCSE, AS and A Level students continue to review all course content should this situation arise. In addition, for those Y13s considering university, it would be sensible to follow the guidance we would normally give to our students at this time, in that they should continue to make a first choice of university, yet still have a realistic lower back up which they would be prepared to accept.

We have not yet received the guidance from Ofqual and so cannot provide any further facts beyond those which are published. Staff are not in a position to offer any comments regarding grades. Given the unprecedented and evolving situation, neither will we be publishing module grades for our Y11 and Y13 students at the end of this module.

For those Y11s who have applied for a place in the Sixth Form, we will be in touch once the situation becomes clearer.

In addition we have, so far still maintained the celebratory events on our calendar for later in the year. Again, further information will follow once the situation becomes clearer.

Please be assured that we will continue to work for our students to ensure that they are best placed for their future and will update you as necessary.

As Mr I Jones, our CEO, stated in a letter to you all last week ...” we are immensely proud of our students and will do whatever we can to help them at this time and into the future”.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson

Head teacher

