



13th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Centre Assessed Grades

We have received confirmation from the Department for Education and the exam regulator, Ofqual, regarding the arrangements for your child's GCSE and A level results.

It has been confirmed that the exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students extremely well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received **if the exams had gone ahead**.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment (coursework). This will include the following, where it is available:

- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.
- for re-sitting students, any information about previous grades achieved or NEA marks that would, under normal circumstances, have been carried forward
- performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study.
- tier of entry in tiered subjects – centre assessment grades must reflect the tier of entry (9 to 3 for higher tier; 5 to 1 for foundation, as well as U)
- previous results in our centre in each subject – these will vary according to a number of factors, including prior attainment of the students.
- the performance of this year's students compared to those in previous years
- any other relevant information that we consider relevant.

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There will be no requirement to send any supporting evidence, such as student work, to the exam boards, but we will retain records of this, in case exam boards have any queries about the data.

Please note that these centre assessment grades are not necessarily the same as:

- working at grades (the grade a student is currently working at)
- target grades (often set a little higher than likely to be achieved, to motivate students)
- Projected grades or predicted grades provided to UCAS in support of university applications

We will be asked to provide **two pieces of information**:

- the grade we believe your child would most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the rank order of students for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across all schools and colleges. For example, if we have 15 students for GCSE maths for whom we have given a centre assessment grade of 5, we then need to rank them from 1 to 15, where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining, 2 is the next most secure and so on.

The 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 so that the 2020 outcomes reflect the same grade distribution as previous years. For example, approximately the same number of grade A* will be issued as in previous years at A level along with every other grade. Similarly, approximately the same number of grade 9's will be issued at GCSE level along with every other grade.

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Ofqual guidance states clearly:

“Centres **must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued.** This is to protect the integrity of teachers’ judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students’ expectations.”

The final deadline for submission of data to exam boards will be specified by the exam boards. It will not be earlier than 29 May 2020 and we will have a window of at least two weeks in which to submit the data.

Ofqual has also stated the following:

“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.”

As the GCSE and A level exams would have been starting next week we have decided to conclude teaching the Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A level courses with from w/c 18.5.20.

We will arrange transition work in the relevant subjects for those students moving to our Sixth Form – details will be released in the summer term.

Ofqual is still considering what arrangements might be put in place to allow an effective appeal and will consult on proposals shortly. The possible grounds of appeals are likely to be relatively narrow and based on the application of the process.

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Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression. Ofqual have not yet released any firm details on future exam dates.

Finally, after finishing in a very different way to previous Year 11 and 13, we would hope in the future that we can do a proper goodbye. We want the opportunity to wish you all the very best appropriately. At the moment with everything so uncertain we cannot make any definite plans, however in the future we would hope to be in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Christey
Headteacher

Ofqual (2020): [Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)

Ofqual (2020): [Ofqual letter to students](#)