

April 2020

Dear Parent Carer

Re: Allocation of GCSE Grades, Summer 2020

Thank you for your patience as we waited for further guidance from OFQUAL regarding how grades will be calculated for examinations this summer. You may have seen various news reports around this topic and we hope that the guidance in this letter will help you and your son / daughter to understand how grades will be produced.

As a school, we will be required to provide examination boards with the following information for each subject:

- An overall grade based on a considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they sat their exams in the summer.
- A rank order of students within each grade.

The grade submitted will be based on the entirety of a student's work over the course of study in each subject. Teachers know their students well and we are confident in the professionalism of our staff in ensuring the process is objective and fair to all students. The rank order is needed to support an external statistical standardisation process. This process will also take into account the prior attainment of the student cohort, centre results in previous years and the expected grade distribution at national level based on previous years.

The government has announced that no work completed from this point can be submitted as evidence, although work completed before the Easter holidays can be. Staff will also not be able to enter into any discussion or correspondence about individual grades submitted or the order of ranking within any given subject. This is a direct instruction from OFQUAL and we are grateful for your support with this.

It was announced in the news this week that results will be published on Wednesday 20th August. Once we have further information about how these will be shared with you, we will notify you. There will be an appeals process of some kind and an option to sit an alternative GCSE examination in the autumn if preferred. Again, when we know more about this we will be in touch. Please continue to look at the school website for further updates.

As a result of OFQUAL's decision, no further work towards their GCSEs will be set on Class Charts. However, we will continue to set remote learning and research around the important areas of careers, mental health and future studies. Some subjects are planning on setting some pre-reading for A Level study wherever possible, although we are only able to do this for





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subjects taught in school and not for new subject areas. Individual teachers will be contacting your son / daughter about this via Class Charts. We highly recommend that students continue to access and complete this work in order to maintain their work ethic as well as providing structure and progress in key areas.

We know that you must be very worried about the impact of the sudden end to Year 11 on all concerned. Students had been working incredibly hard towards their summer exams and were looking forward to all that the end of their time at school brings. The purchase of Leavers' Hoodies and Year Books will continue and students will be contacted about these separately. In terms of their Prom, we would like to reassure you that this will happen at some point in the future and we will be in touch as soon as we know more. Staff are looking forward to celebrating all efforts of Year 11 students and we couldn't miss the Prom!

Once again, thank you for your patience as we gathered all information together. Please continue to check the website for updates.

Yours sincerely

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Acting Headteacher

Declan Mooney
Acting Headteacher

