



25th March 2020

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 parents,

Thank you for all of your kind emails and messages – the support we have received from pupils and parents in this unprecedented time has been tremendous. We hope you are all well and your child is keeping busy with school work! As suggested in my last letter, I write here with an update in relation to exams and the awarding of grades.

The Government has released the following information:

“[The Government’s priority is now] ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. 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 the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The 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 take into account 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. 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, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in...

...The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.”

The full page of information can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

In my letter on Monday 23rd, I stated that we aimed to release predicted grades this week. After much careful deliberation, we have decided to wait until we have definitive guidance from Government and exam boards. To release anything now would be unfair, as we still do not have a clear picture of how the above information will work in practice and we do not want to mislead. We want to be sure that everything given to pupils and parents is clear and in line with how grading will work this summer. At present, the above is all the information we have.

I know it has been a very worrying time for all. None of us has ever experienced anything like this before. We will do our utmost to support our pupils in securing grades that are a true reflection of their ability and hard work. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us in the usual ways.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Dunn
Headteacher