

22 April 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

I wrote to you all on 3 April following the Government's announcement about how A level, GCSE and EPQ grades would be calculated this year. At the time of this announcement it was unclear about the approach that would be taken with vocational qualifications, but we do now have an update about this so I am getting in touch again to bring those of you affected up to date.

The recent (9 April) announcement covers BTEC Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Applied Generals and Functional Skills qualifications and is relevant for all students who were due to complete their course in summer 2020. If you are studying a one year 'rescue course', this is also relevant to you.

As far as possible, such qualifications will be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, with learners receiving a **calculated result**. Calculated results will draw appropriately on a range of evidence; depending on the structure of the qualification, centres may be asked to provide a centre assessment result for the whole qualification, or for uncompleted modules or units.

Any centre assessment result will be based on a range of evidence held by the College. They may be based in part on teacher judgements of what result each learner would most likely have achieved had they been able to complete their assessments in summer 2020. Many learners will already have completed assessments in some modules or units, which will be taken into account.

Because the vocational courses differ from one another in terms of the way in which they are assessed, it is not possible to undertake the calculated result in a 'one size fits all' approach. Once awarding bodies make decisions on the calculation assessment for each course we will be in touch with relevant students and their guardians.

We are confident that Ofqual's plan is the fairest and most consistent way of grading these qualifications in these circumstances. Students can be assured that the College knows them well, will assess their work with the utmost diligence, and that the process for standardising results will ensure a level playing field nationally.

Access arrangements will be taken into consideration as part of the process for any students that have had them approved where their qualification included an externally assessed element. We will also be taking circumstances requiring special consideration e.g. illness or other personal circumstances that might have affected performance in assessments, into account.

In terms of ongoing work over the coming weeks, your teachers will not be setting any new formal assessments/coursework at this time. This is because it is not possible to assess components in the regular way. We do however recommend that students continue to engage with current and future subject specific material, focussing on any work that remains outstanding from the period before the lockdown began. This continuation in engaging with material is to ensure that knowledge and understanding is maintained to support your selected progression routes.

At this time I ask that students and parents/guardians do not attempt to contact the College or individual teachers about the teacher assessed grades. Whilst we appreciate that you will be anxious about the grades, there is a very clear instruction from Ofqual to institutions and students prohibiting interference in the process, and protecting the integrity of teachers' judgements. **We will not be allowed to share the teacher assessed grades with you at any point.**

It has now been confirmed that results will be published on the originally planned dates i.e. 13 August 2020 for A level and equivalent vocational Courses and 20 August 2020 for GCSE courses.

Ofqual have produced a very useful summary of their processes which can be found [here](#). They have also published [this letter](#) detailing how grades will be awarded. Ofqual will be issuing further guidance in the coming months, and we will make sure that we share any relevant information with you at the earliest opportunity.

Please also remember that all students across the country are experiencing the same emotions about this situation. We are doing our best for you and will provide grades that reflect the hard work that you have done.

I do hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well at this challenging time.

Best wishes,

Catherine Cole
Principal