

3 April 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

I understand the uncertainty and confusion that you may have been experiencing following the Government's announcement that this summer's examination series is cancelled.

I'm pleased to confirm that today Ofqual has published the details of how they intend to award A level, GCSE and EPQ grades this summer. Vocational qualifications **are being dealt with separately**, and we expect to receive guidance on this by the end of the Easter break.

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.

The College will be determining and submitting a teacher assessed grade for each of the subjects that students were due to complete this summer. This will involve looking at all the evidence we have in order to reach a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement for each student.

The judgement will not be drawn from the UCAS predicted grade, which was set almost a year ago, and it will not be derived from performance in a single mock exam. It will involve scrutiny of the full range of evidence we have, which has been gathered over the two years of a course. Access arrangements will be taken into consideration as part of the process for any students that have had them approved. 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. The current intention is to issue final results slightly earlier in the year than is usual, but there is no final date for this at present.

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 is important to understand that a mechanism is applied to A level and GCSE results every year, which means the distribution of grades is broadly the same as for similar cohorts in previous years. The model planned by Ofqual this year will apply a similar approach to assessments made by schools and colleges rather than to exams. The benefit is this ensures consistency over time and students can therefore be confident that a grade achieved this year will have the same value as in any other year.

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 over the last year and a half.

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

Best wishes

Catherine Cole
Principal