



Initial Letter 03.04.2020

Dear Students and Parents,

We are forwarding you the letter from Ofqual on how GCSEs and A levels will be awarded in summer 2020. Please take time to read it through carefully. Also attached too is their booklet on the official guidance.

These have just been published with the aim to reassure, in their words, 'that Ofqual, and the exam boards, will do everything [they] can to make sure that, as far as possible, grades are fair and that [students] are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.' A useful article is also here: <https://feweeek.co.uk/2020/04/03/chief-regulator-offers-reassurance-over-this-summer-gcse-and-a-level-grades/>.

There has been Ofqual guidance to the School and teachers. The grades put forward to the exam boards **'should be a holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence\*.'**

These are outlined as coming from a variety of sources, 'where it is available:

- 'records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, 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 \*\*.'

Ofqual has specified that, **'[t]here is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade'**, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.\*\*\*' So therefore, no additional assessment will be counted after the school closed.

Although we have also focused on 'completing the course' until this guidance was published, this is still relevant, because we want to avoid any gaps in knowledge at GCSE and A level; so as to support future study; and furthermore there is still the potential option that some students may elect to take the 2020 exam, details of which have yet to be confirmed.

With regard to students completing Non-Examined Assessment Ofqual has specified that: **'You should not ask students to complete their NEA work and you do not need to submit marks for any completed NEA.\*\*\*\*'** So therefore, stop all NEA work.

We ask that you do not enter into correspondence with individual teachers over this matter.

And that over Easter, a true 'break' is taken, where possible, by all, after this challenging term.

We will respond to queries after Easter.

Kind regards,

Notre Dame Leadership Team  
office@ndhs.org.uk

\*GUIDANCE: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths . Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades, p5.

\*\*GUIDANCE: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths. Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades, p6.

\*\*\*Guidance: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths . Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers; p4

\*\*\*\* GUIDANCE: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths. Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades, p5.