

Dear Year 11 student

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. As you are undoubtedly aware news has now reached us about how your grades will be calculated in the absence of exams. This will be done as follows.

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.

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 government also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

The Government recognise that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. If they do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

We will of course inform you of further information as and when we receive it from the Department of Education. To ensure that you finish Year 11 with a strong understanding of the GCSE curriculum, we would ask you to complete the work set on google classrooms if you are able to do so. We appreciate that your ability to complete this work will vary depending on your health and your home learning facilities. Therefore, please be aware that we are not intending to assess your remote learning in order to inform the grades we send in to the exam boards. Work is being set via google classroom in order that you finish Year 11 with a strong understanding of the entire GCSE curriculum, which will be essential should you opt to sit GCSE exam(s) at a later date. The work being set will also serve to prepare you for A-levels, and our staff will begin to set A-level transition work once the GCSE curriculums are completed and our staffing stabilises.

The Government has issued some answers to frequently asked question, around the exams being cancelled, which can be found through the below link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Finally, we would ask you to please not contact individual staff about grades as they have been instructed to refer to this letter. However, if you are in need of further guidance or support with your work, then do not hesitate in asking your teachers.

Yours sincerely

Julian McKay
Director of Sixth Form

Jonathan Croucher
Deputy Headteacher

