



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

An Update on Year 11 Examination Grades in 2020

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued a press release that provides some guidance about how grades will be awarded this summer. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>. It is important that you know that we do not yet have any more information than is on the DfE website about how the process will work but as soon as we do we will update you. They will also not respond to emails about grades from parents, carers or students as there is no purpose in doing so while the picture is unclear.

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 (coursework) – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools. 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 put in before the school was closed. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to do so. It is also likely that they will have the opportunity to sit their exams in the Summer of 2021 if they would like to.

The government is discussing the arrangements with teachers' representatives and once those discussions have been concluded there will be a clearer picture. At that point we will decide on the grades across the school and then determine centrally if they are fair and reflect students' performance. As a school we have a great deal of experience in predicting grades and so are confident that we will be able to do so in this instance.

The process is likely to take place by the end of July. I understand that students and parents will be keen to know more but we are not yet in a position to provide answers. As soon as we have more information we will be back in touch but please do bear with us on this as final decisions have not yet been made nationally. Our website will be updated regularly with any new information as we receive it. We will try to answer any questions that parents have but it may be more helpful to await our updates as we can only provide clear responses once we have definitive guidance from the DfE.

The Year 11 students have conducted themselves in a really impressive way in the face of these unpredictable times and we are all very proud of them. We will do our very best to ensure that every student achieves the grade that they deserve.

I wish you and all your family the best at this very difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie McGloin
Headteacher