



Dear Parents and Carers

## **An Update on Year 13 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 and so I have instructed teachers not to consider possible grades until we have this information. 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. When we have that information I will provide you with a central email to which any questions can be directed.

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. We are aware that any one of these elements can be a poor reflection of student performance so we will look at the full picture when determining grades. 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 have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to do so.

If students have any non-exam assessment that they are allowed to finish at home then they should do so and ensure that it is submitted to their teachers. In most subjects, however, there is either no non-exam assessment or if there is it has to be done in controlled conditions which is not possible now the government has shut schools. Students should not worry about this as this is the case in all schools nationally.

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.

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 also be updated regularly with any new information as we receive it.

The Year 13 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