

26th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students

Re: Government announcement on examinations and grades

Last week it was announced that this year's summer examinations, including GCSEs and other qualifications, were cancelled, following the government's decision to close schools in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. Over the weekend the government announced their plans for ensuring that all students receive appropriate grades for the qualifications they have been studying towards. The government has emphasized that this should not disadvantage any student.

In summary:

- Exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- Teachers will consider a range of evidence and data – including performance in mock exams, coursework (if applicable) classwork and homework tasks. Teachers will also take in to consideration how well students have been improving over the year in order to make their judgment on what the final grade should be. The exam boards will combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, they will have the same value as those awarded in previous years and will be treated equally in comparison to those from previous years as well.
- The government will aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years – this means that this year's students will not face a systematic disadvantage because of these extraordinary circumstances.
- If students 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 re-opened. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in Summer 2021. At this stage we have no further details on how this system will operate. It would be prudent for all pupils to retain their GCSE notes, books and other resources as these may be required in the future.
- The government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

- Full details of the government's announcement and the process that has be outlined can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>
We hope that this clarity will give some comfort to our students and their families at this extremely difficult time. We will send out further updates as we receive further information and guidance from exam boards and the government.

Please take care of yourselves and families and thank you for your ongoing support for the school in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brynley Evans', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BRYNLEY EVANS
Headteacher