

Friday 3rd April

Dear Year 11 Pupils and Parents

Further to our recent letter to you, Ofqual, the organisation who oversee exams for the government, have now issued the full details of how they expect the exam awarding bodies to issue grades this summer. We appreciate that you will have been concerned following the announcement to cancel all exams this summer, however we trust that the details now released will provide you with reassurance for the process that will be used. The following extract is a direct letter for parents and pupils from Ofqual.

A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer from the Chief Regulator, Ofqual

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated? Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade.

This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges. Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade? Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me? No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

When will I get my results? We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.



Can I take my exams another time? We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our detailed guidance; along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have.

We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

We can assure you that all four of our Academies will work with the awarding bodies to ensure that your child receives the grades they deserve in line with the guidance that has been issued today.

These are extraordinary circumstances, and we will work to ensure the best for all our young people. Alongside this we continue to work with our local post-16 providers, in particular our sponsor North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, to ensure we do everything we can to best help students prepare for and progress to the next stage of their education.

As set out in the above information from Ofqual, the information we provide will be confidential, therefore please don't ask our teachers, or anyone else to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of pupils – they will not be allowed to share this with you. Please remember that the final decision on grades will be made by Ofqual and the exam awarding bodies, not individual schools or teachers.

If you do have any queries you can contact us by email at Info@midlandacademiestrust.co.uk, however in the first instance please use the information and links to the guidance above before contacting us.

Best wishes



Simon Lomax
Lead Principal

