

26th March 2020



Dear Year 11 Pupils and Parents

We appreciate that you will be concerned following the announcement to cancel all exams this summer, however we can assure you that we will work with the awarding bodies to ensure that your child receives the grades they deserve in line with the guidance that we will be given in due course. Once we have this we will provide you with further updates. Below are some helpful points from Ofqual who oversee exams for the government, about the arrangements for exams.

- The coronavirus outbreak is expected to continue having a significant impact on the education system, and the country, for months to come. Therefore, exams have been cancelled now to give pupils, parents, and teachers certainty, and enable schools and colleges to focus on supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.
- Will all students get their predicted grade? No, we know that simply using predicted grades would not be fair to all students. We are not awarding students their predicted grades. Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, will develop a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment and prior attainment. Ofqual will make every effort to ensure that the process agreed does not disadvantage any particular group of students. The calculated grade will take into account teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment, so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect their predicted grades.
- Mock exam results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account in this process, alongside other factors. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.
- **We will work closely with Ofqual and awarding organisations to ensure candidates are awarded a fair grade that recognises the work they have put in. If a student does 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, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.**
- Exam boards have experience of using moderated teacher assessment to award grades to a number of students, such as those who fall ill immediately before an exam. Ofqual will draw on this experience when developing the process to be used this year.

These are extraordinary circumstances. We are working 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. A letter will have been sent to you by our Careers Team and we would encourage you to contact them if you have any queries.

Kind regards and best wishes

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