

6th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have read the letter from Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual, on our website regarding the calculation of grades this summer. I would like to explain the process in a little more detail so you can fully understand what this means for your child.

At the beginning of June, the exam boards will request grade predictions from teachers based on what they believe your child would have achieved in their examinations had your child sat them in the summer. Teachers are also being asked to rank order students in each grade boundary eg. If 10 students are predicted a Grade 7, students will be ranked in order of how secure teachers believe they are within that grade boundary in comparison to the other 9 students.

These judgements will be based on the wealth of information we have built up during your child's examination years. It will include classwork and homework, in-class assessments, coursework and recent PPE results. **Judgements will not be based on target grades or age-related expectations.** This will be a rigorous process and I can ensure you that staff will leave no stone unturned before arriving at their judgement.

The guidance is also clear on with whom these judgements can be discussed. *'Centres **must not**, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued.'* I understand how stressful a time this must be for you and your child but I must ask you to refrain from contacting teachers regarding these judgements. I'm afraid the answer will always be the same.

Once the predictions are submitted to the exam boards, they will be subject to a standardisation process where, *'Exam boards, using a model developed with Ofqual, will use a statistical model to standardise grades across centres in each subject.'* This means that the judgements teachers submit and the final grades your child receives could be different.

Final grades are expected to be released within the same time frame and maybe earlier so that students know where they stand in terms of post-16 courses and apprenticeships or university courses.

Should you or your child be unhappy with the final grades awarded, there is unlikely to be a normal appeals process this year. This is currently being looked into. However, students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take exams in the autumn or in summer 2021. We don't yet know what those exams will look like, whether they will be a full set of exams or a shortened version. However, if they choose to do this, both the grades they were awarded in the summer, and new grades will stand so they don't lose out if the grade they receive from sitting the exams is lower.

There is no longer any requirement for students to continue to produce work set by teachers for their subjects. However, individual subjects may ask that students complete coursework if it is close to completion as they feel it will help in their judgements. However, coursework will not be externally moderated this year.

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One key thing to end on is that this only applies to GCSE and A-level courses. **We do not yet have a definitive decision on vocational courses such as BTEC, CTEC and NCFE courses.** We would still encourage students studying these qualifications to continue to complete work set until we have a clear decision.

I have attached an infographic kindly shared by Mr Lewis Griffin, Deputy Head of St Benedict School in Derby, which provides an excellent reference for the process.

All I can now do is assure you that teachers will be working forensically over the next two months to do our best to ensure that your child receives the grade they deserve.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Williams', written in a cursive style.

Barry Williams
Assistant Headteacher