



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to keep you updated on the latest information surrounding the GCSE and A Level summer examinations.

As staff, we are devastated that our Year 11 and Year 13 students won't be able to sit their GCSE and A Levels and come away with the grades they have worked so hard for. On the Thursday of last week, we spoke to all Year 11 and 13 students and talked about the exams being simply a measuring point and not something that defines them as individuals. Education is a journey, and this will continue with or without exam grades as they work to increase their knowledge and understanding through remote learning and as we prepare them for the next stages of their education. The plan over the next few weeks is for students to complete the content of their courses and to fill any knowledge gaps and we will then start to prepare them for learning at the next level. More information regarding this will be sent out in the weeks to come.

I would also like to keep you updated with the latest developments regarding how grades will be awarded. The DFE released further information this week regarding the likely process. The headlines of this press release are as follows:

The DFE have stated that it is likely that:

- Teachers will be asked to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead
- Teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessments
- 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
- There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- The DFE will aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years.

The full press release can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

It is clear from the information received that the DFE, exams boards and schools will work closely together to ensure that no student is disadvantaged or has barriers to the next stages in their education.

Those students who have applied to our Sixth form will be contacted in due course to outline the process we will take as a school with regards to grades and enrolment onto the courses they have chosen.

We will continue to update you on any further information we receive over the coming days and weeks.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past few weeks and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards

Chris Barnett
Deputy Headteacher