



From the Head: Mrs Wendy Martin

3 April 2020

Dear Parents

GCSE, AS, A level and EPQ awards Summer 2020

Ofqual (the exams regulator) and the Government have just published how they intend to award GCSE and A level grades this summer. I have attached a letter from Sally Collier (Ofqual's chief regulator) which details how grades will be awarded and the procedures they are applying to ensure the grades awarded this summer are fair, objective and consistent with previous years. There is a link within her letter to further information, should you require more detail.

In essence school will submit grades that, in our professional judgement, students would "*have been most likely to achieve had exams gone ahead*". These grades are to be based on each student's individual performance over the course of study. Teachers must consider how students compare to other students both in the current year and students in previous years. We must also submit a rank order; this is to enable the exam boards to carry out statistical analyses and try to ensure consistency across different schools and colleges.

Ofqual are very clear that **we must not share our "predicted" grades with students or parents.**

We will be required to submit these grades around half-term (so by the end of May). The guidance is clear that schools should not require students to do further work. However, as I have said in a previous letter, most students produce their best work between the Easter break and their exam. In my experience students usually demonstrate the grade I would expect them to get in an exam around now. With this in mind, I will be asking teaching staff to continue to support the students by setting and marking work, and to retain this work should it be required as evidence.

The guidance states that students who would normally qualify for Access Arrangements (extra time etc) the submitted grade should take account of likely achievement with the reasonable adjustment/access arrangement in place. Special consideration requests will not apply this summer.

So at least until half term teaching staff will be setting and marking work, which may take the form of past papers or other relevant tasks.

For Year 11 students, from May onwards, we will be offering a "Bridging the Gap" course designed to start them on A level work and in particular delivering the essential skills expected for A level study. More detail on this will be sent after the Easter holiday.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

Wendy Martin (Head)