

Dear Students,

6th April 2020

Government Guidance on GCSE Grades

I hope you and your families are all well and coping in these strange times. As I am sure you are aware, the guidance with regard to GCSE grades this summer has recently been released.

The process is outlined in the ofqual paper from 3rd April <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcse-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020> and they have also produced a letter to students https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

As a school we will follow the guidance. Your grades will be based on the existing records from your teachers and available evidence (some examples are prior data, grades throughout year 10, mock grades in year 11, books, coursework and where appropriate practical performance) and not on promises of working hard for the 'real' exams. Once complete we report the grades that the school is recommending to the exam boards. Please note the guidance states these cannot be shared with you.

We would ask that you trust us and the robustness of the process to produce a fair outcome. You can appeal the grades awarded and will also have the chance to 'sit' exams in the future to improve them if you wish.

We believe these arrangements strike the best balance between recognising the crisis that we find ourselves in, upholding the standards of the GCSE qualifications and supporting you in progressing to the next stage of your educational careers.

With your next steps in mind, we will be writing again to share work you should do to help consolidate knowledge, learning and prepare for your courses next year. The outline of this will come in a letter via email and be based upon the destination data that we have for you. It is vital that you undertake this work so that you are ready to start your courses in September. Please email and ask for more if you need it or if your plans have changed.

You may find the following link useful: <https://bygeorgeanderson.com/exams/>

It is a free 45 minute webinar from a wellbeing, resilience and performance expert, George Anderson. Luton Sixth Form shared it on their twitter page for GCSE and A level students. He talks about how to cultivate resilience and a positive mindset in a time of uncertainty.

I am sure you appreciate that there is much work to do in order to provide the exam boards with the information they have requested, so please be patient with us while we progress this. As I write there is no news on the Prom or leaving events although the yearbook is progressing.

Please feel free to contact me via email if I can help at all.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Williets
Deputy Headteacher