

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Year 13 students and parents

As you know this year's summer exam series has been officially cancelled in the fight to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Government has now released its plans for how it will ensure you are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that you have put in.

Ofqual (the regulator of examinations and qualifications) will develop a process that will provide a calculated grade which reflects your performance, as fairly as possible. They will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. Your teachers, who know you well, will be asked to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe you would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, your teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams, non-exam assessment and coursework. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including your prior attainment at the previous key stage (GCSE exam results) and use this information to produce your calculated grade.

In the case of qualifications where you have already completed modules, an AS exam or non-exam assessment this will likely be used to help provide evidence to award a grade.

The Government's aim is to provide these calculated grades before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. Your exam certificates will look exactly the same as any previous year's.

The Government recognises that some of you may feel disappointed that you haven't been able to sit your exams. They will therefore set up an appeal process and will provide the opportunity for you to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again, probably in September 2020. You will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

All of the universities have agreed to co-operate fully with this system. If you decide to sit an exam in September they will allow you to start your university course slightly later in the year. UCAS is advising all students to not make rash decisions but think carefully about your options. I am happy to talk to any students about your options if you are unsure. Keep checking UCAS Track regularly as they will be providing advice to you.

I already know that some students who were not originally intending to go to University this year are now considering it. You can still make an application through UCAS. If you need any help with this please get in touch with me and I will support you through the process including helping you write your Personal Statement.

So what does this mean for you?

- Firstly, and most importantly if you have any outstanding course work you should complete this and send it to your teacher as soon as possible. You have spent a lot of time completing this work and should be proud of it. It will help your teacher to make their decision about your calculated grade.
- Do not throw away your books, revision guides and notes as you might want them to use if you decide to take the opportunity to take your exams in light of your results.
- Keeping up the excellent study habits you have developed over the last two years is a very good idea. As I said on Friday, I have always been impressed by your genuine love of learning. Enjoy a few days rest but you will want to keep your mind active. For many of you, you will be going to university in a few months time. Preparing for those courses now is advised. It is very likely that universities will want to have some kind of exams during your first year. Some of you may still want to take exams in September and so it is important that you keep on top of your subjects. Keeping busy physically and mentally will be very important for your own mental health and wellbeing over the next few weeks.

There will be a Results Day in July or early August and I will let you know when this is. It will be lovely to see you all again then and celebrate your fantastic achievements over the last two years.

As I said on Friday, the College will continue to support you to ensure that you get the results you deserve. Please keep yourselves well and stay in touch with each other

Best wishes

John Golding

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form