

7th April 2020

Dear Year 11 students, parents and carers,

As you may be aware the Government has now published details of how GCSE grades will be awarded this year. As all examinations have now been cancelled, your GCSE grade will be determined by a number of factors:

- Your **teacher's assessment** of what grade you were likely to achieve – this will be based on a number of things including work done in lessons, homeworks, internal exam results and the fact that they you very well. This will be the most important factor.
- Your **previous attainment** at Key Stage 2 and 3
- The **College's past record** of GCSE results.

This is, of course, something which has not happened before and so schools are being given plenty of time to make sure that each student is given full consideration. We will be asked to submit grades to exam boards after 29th May 2020. This allows teachers of the same subject to discuss with each other what grade each student was likely to achieve. We have also been asked to produce a rank order of students who we believe would have achieved the same grade.

OFQUAL, the body which administers all examinations, has made it very clear that teachers and schools should not tell students which grade we have given them. This is because the exam boards will take all of the other factors into consideration before deciding the final grade. Please do not email individual teachers to ask them what grade they have given you – they are not allowed to tell you.

Students will be given their results in August. The original GCSE results day was scheduled for Thursday 20th August and OFQUAL have guaranteed that results will be decided by that date at the latest but hopefully a little earlier. If the date of results day changes we will let you know.

OFQUAL has also guaranteed that if any student is unhappy with the result they are awarded this year they will have the opportunity to sit an exam in that subject in the next academic year. Both grades will stand if you decide to sit an exam. This is something which you will want to discuss with your teachers in September.

I have also attached to this post a letter to all students and parents in the country from Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of OFQUAL explaining the process in more detail.

We will be publishing some work for students after the Easter break which is designed to help you to prepare for A Level, CAMTEC, BTEC and other post-16 courses. We recommend that you work on those subjects which you intend to study in September no matter where you are going to be studying. It is very important that you maintain the strong and positive study habits you have built up over the last two years. I would also like to confirm the promise that all Year 11 students have a place at Torpoint Sixth Form if they would like one and can contact me by email to discuss subject choices.

I hope that this answers most of the questions you may have about the awarding of GCSE grades this year. If you have any other concerns or questions please do not hesitate to email me and I will do my very best to help. I hope that you are all safe and well and I very much look forward to seeing you all again in person very soon.

Yours sincerely,

John Golding
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form, Exams Officer