



Dear Parents and Carers,

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

## RE: A Level and BTEC Results

As you know, all public exams this summer have been cancelled due to the coronavirus. As a school we are deeply saddened about this and would like to say how very sorry we are that this has happened to the 'class of 2020'. In these complex times, we recognise how important it is to keep you updated with the latest information regarding the process by which the government proposes to arrive at fair and accurate A Level and BTEC grades. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, the Department for Education (DfE) released some guidance on how the exam boards are likely to award results.

Here is a **summary** of the key details from the [DfE here](#):

- Students will be awarded grades this summer which fairly reflect the work they have put in
- Grades will reflect performance as fairly as possible and 'be indistinguishable' from grades given to students in other years
- The exam boards, Ofqual and the DfE, together with teachers' representatives, are going to agree a consistent approach in relation to how the grades are calculated
- Teachers will be asked to report the grades students would have achieved, if they had sat their exams
- Teachers can take into account evidence such as mock exams and non-exam assessments
- The exam boards will then use data, such as prior attainment (GCSE results for example), to decide on a final calculated grade.

### Vocational Qualifications

- The exam boards will work with Ofqual, to agree a common approach to ensure no students are disadvantaged
- They will use the best available evidence, which could include assessments that students have completed, to confirm final calculated grades.

### Results

- The exam boards will aim to give students calculated grades by the end of July
- Students should be assured that these grades are indistinguishable from those given in other years.

### Further Steps

- There will be opportunities to sit exams early in the autumn term, or in summer of 2021, if any student is not happy that their grade reflects their performance.



- If students do not feel the right process has been followed, there is also an option to appeal.

In this ever-changing environment, I must reiterate that this is the DfE's initial guidance and therefore is subject to change. For now, it does however provide us all with what seems to be the most likely way that the exam results will be awarded this year.

#### UCAS:

We know that many of you will be preparing to go to University in September and we have been keeping up to date with the latest information from UCAS. Here is the most recent message on their website:

#### ***A message from the Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan:***

*'We want to assure students that grades will be equally as valid as those in previous years, and their hard work will be rewarded and fairly recognised. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted.'*

*'I am pleased Universities UK has confirmed institutions will be flexible and do all they can to support students to progress to higher education.'*

Please be assured that we will do everything we can to support you with your progression to University and so please email me or Ms Belger if you have any queries or receive any emails from a University that you need help with.

I will endeavour to keep you updated, as and when I receive further information and would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and kind messages of support for the way in which the school has responded to this situation.

We hope that you and your families are able to keep well-physically, psychologically and spiritually. Please make as much time as possible to listen to each other, to support each other and to be loving and kind towards one another. Please do contact me on my email address if there is anything that you might want to clarify or share.

Our thoughts and very best wishes are with you and every single one of our fantastic Year 13 students and we look forward to a wonderful celebration event with you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Pooley

Deputy Headteacher



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