

SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

3rd April 2020

Update from Ofqual on Arrangements for Centre Assessment Grades

Ofqual, the exams regulator, have just published the arrangements on how grades will be awarded for GCSE and A-level examinations this summer. As yet we have not received guidance regarding BTEC and CTEC courses but we will send further information about this once it is released. Some of you may have already seen this information by the time you read this letter. It is difficult for us to provide you with any further thoughts on this at this stage as we received first sight of this at the same time as it is made public.

Please see a link to the guidance for teacher, students, parents and carers <u>here</u>. Please see a letter from Ofqual to students <u>here</u>.

This guidance is very much in line with what was outlined in last week's announcement. It is based upon a 'centre assessment grade' taking into account a range of student work and the grade the school feels a student would most likely have achieved, plus an element of rank ordering.

For now, I will leave you to read this information. We too need time to digest this information and in due course we will share further details and an opportunity for students and families to ask questions, once the mechanism for this process is made clearer.

The release of this information just before the Easter break is not ideal in many ways, as I know you will have queries. However, it will provide time to reflect upon the contents of the guidance.

In the meantime I would ask that students and parents/carers do not approach teachers about the issue of centre assessment grades or the work that will be used to guide this. Teachers have not yet been briefed on this guidance. We will make a system for queries about this process clear after Easter, but it will not include contact with individual members of staff.

May I thank you again for the excellent attitude demonstrated by all of our students at this difficult time. We all wish you well during this Easter period. Please follow the Government instructions for social distancing and stay safe. Our thoughts and very best wishes are with you and every single one of our wonderful Year 11 and 13 students.

Yours sincerely,

Gloria Lowe

Gloria Lowe Headteacher