



3 April 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Year 13 - Examinations, Assessments and Moving on

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are well and that you are adapting to our temporary way of life. It's a big change but by following government advice we will all be able to return to some normality, sooner.

You have been extremely patient over the past week or so while we awaited news and advice from the Department for Education (DFE) and OfQual which is the government office that oversees qualifications and assessments across the country. There is still a lot they need to clarify and we are expecting more information this week but we wanted to share with you what we know so far and some of the things we are doing to ensure you continue to be well supported by us.

What we know:

- The GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams this summer have been cancelled
- The government is aiming for grades to still be awarded to you for all the qualifications you have been taking
- Measures are being put in place by the DFE to ensure grades fairly reflect the work you have put in to your subjects – even if you have not yet finished some of the coursework

How will your final grades be produced?

- Your teachers will be asked to make a judgement about the grade they believe you would have got if you had sat the exams or finished the course entirely, a bit like a predicted grade
- This judgement will take into account your PPE exam results, external exams already completed (BTEC / vocational units) and any coursework you have completed as well as other school assessments and tests that you have completed. It will also take in to account the work they have seen from you on a day to day basis and everything they know about your knowledge, skills and ability in their subject
- This information will then be used to calculate your final grade in each subject
- The same process will be used by every exam board in every school, for every student and every qualification

What happens if I am not happy with the grade I am awarded?

- You will be able to appeal if you believe the grade awarded is too low
- You will also be able sit an exam 'at the earliest opportunity' in each subject if you are still unhappy with the grade (the timing of this will depend on when the virus outbreak is contained and things return to 'normal')

Things to note:

- We are unsure how many exams you will need to take in each subject if you decide to sit them 'at the earliest opportunity'
- These proposals are sketchy and more details are going to be released soon

It is important that you keep all your past PPE/practise exam papers, exercise books / notes and internal assessments and tests as these may be needed by your teachers to support their judgement. We will keep everything we have such as your most recent PPE papers and internal assessment data.

What to do now:

Even though you will not be sitting exams this Summer, if you planned to study a similar course Post 16, this educational setting will assume that you have a certain level of knowledge and skill from Year 13. We have asked your teachers to keep setting relevant work on Show My Homework. Where the content had not yet been fully covered your teachers will focus on this and you will see this begin to appear in the next few days. We will set work up until around the time we would have finished teaching you. If you need to contact your teacher you can do so through the messaging system on SMHW.

Your next steps:

As outlined above we are waiting for more information from Ofqual, but the points below offer some guidance:

- If you are asked for a skype interview as part of an offer made by a university then you will need to be prepared to say what you have been doing with your time since the school closure – for this reason completing tasks set on SMHW, whether completing the course or building on subject knowledge may prove useful. If a skype interview is offered, please let Mr Reader know, who will offer support
- There are lots of rumours circulating about universities rescinding offers that have not been firmly accepted, but UCAS does not know of a single incident of this. If this happens to you, please inform Mr Reader as UCAS would like to know
- If you had received all of your UCAS decisions by 31 March 2020 the deadline for your response is now the 19 May 2020
- If you do know your choices then you could indicate them now
- Some universities have added 'no criminal behaviour' as a condition of their offer - this sounds odd but is essentially them working with the government to support any lockdown and to ensure that young people have an extra incentive to use this time productively

The end of Year 13 ended unexpectedly quickly – we did not get the chance to say goodbye to you in the way we would choose and so when it is time we will look at how we can organise something to mark the end of this important stage of your lives and give your teachers a chance to wish you well for the future.

We will be back in touch as soon as we have any more information. Until then, look after yourselves and be assured we will do everything needed to support you. If you need us just ask.

From everyone here, our best wishes to you and your family.



Collette Nelson
Head of School