

I know you are all concerned about the implications of the announcement that exams have been cancelled. Today, the government released some detail about how grades will be awarded. This proposal is not yet finalised; however, we want to share with you the information we have received thus far. I will send out more detail next week to explain what this means for our students. For now, here are the headlines:

Current details on arrangements for exams which have been cancelled to fight spread of coronavirus – draft proposals, awaiting final approval:

1. This year's summer exam series, including A levels, GCSEs and other qualifications have been cancelled.
2. The Government's priority is *'to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives ...'*
3. The aim is to ensure students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.
4. Students will also have an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year, if they wish.
5. Ofqual (the regulating and accreditation body for British examination boards) will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
6. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
7. Teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – **clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly this will be provided to schools and colleges.**
8. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
9. The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
10. If students do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis.
11. If students do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once college is open again.
12. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.
13. We will show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged.
14. **More details will be available shortly.**

It is clear from this proposal that it is really important that students continue to engage with their subjects, through the on-line course delivery as set by their teachers. Your help, encouragement and support with this will be greatly appreciated. I'll provide more information as it emerges, so keep checking email and the college website for further updates.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, whilst we all await further detail concerning qualifications.

Remley Mann
Principal

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