



AJR/AS/TT/21 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers/Students,

I hope you have all had a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

On the final day of last term, Ofqual released guidance on how 'centre assessment grades' will be awarded this summer, replacing exam grades for GCSE, AS and A levels, information is available via this [link](#) and a letter to students which can be accessed via this [link](#). Last week, Ofqual announced Year 10 GCSE should also be included in the process and this will affect our Year 10 RS cohort. Ofqual have produced a video regarding grades which you may find helpful and can be accessed via this [link](#).

Ofqual have also acknowledged that they are introducing these exceptional arrangements at speed and have launched a 14-day consultation, which closes on Wednesday 29 April 2020. The consultation covers several areas including allowing pupils in Year 10 to be given grades, how the regulator should standardise grades, and how the appeals system should work. The consultation is open to anyone wishing to make a representation, including but not limited to parents, students and teachers. You can access the Ofqual consultation document via this [link](#) and details of how to submit your views can be found on page 13 of the document.

Assuming there are no major changes following the consultation, we are beginning to use this guidance so we, as a centre, can make objective, evidence-based judgements of student performance, which are fair and consistent. Judgements will only consider evidence about student performance up to 20 March 2020, the date the school closed. This will include the following, where it is available:

- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data (IPMs), classwork, bookmark (teacher assessment of exercise books or notes) and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed;
- performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study;
- any other relevant information.

The school will not have the final decision about the grades awarded as exam boards will standardise the judgements across different centres once submitted, using a statistical methodology developed in conjunction with Ofqual. We are aware that exam boards will consider the following when deciding which grade to award:

- expected grade distributions at national level;
- results in previous years at individual centre level;
- the prior attainment profile of students at centre level.

Given that teachers are submitting *recommendations* rather than the final outcome, we are not permitted to share any of this information about grades with parents or students. Ofqual guidance clearly states:



“Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers’ judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students’ expectations”.

Results will be issued to students as originally planned on Thursday 13 August for A Level and AS Level and Thursday 20 August for GCSE. Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will also have the opportunity to sit an exam in the autumn; the details of which have not yet been shared with us.

We are now working towards submitting these recommendations and will follow the instruction that we produce a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grades a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed fully any non-exam assessment. Our overriding priority is to ensure that all students are rewarded fairly for their hard work.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rees
Headteacher/Head of Centre