

Dear Parent/Carer and student,

2020 GCSE Examinations

As you will know due to the current situation around COVID-19 GCSE examinations were cancelled for 2020. The Government has now updated its advice following the cancellation of this summer's GCSE.

In essence:

- Examination boards will ask teachers to submit their judgement (using such information as the mock examinations and non-examination assessments) on the grade that they believe a student would have attained if the exams had gone ahead.
- The exam boards will look at these judgements alongside other data including the students' prior attainment and the national distribution of examination grades in previous years.

From this process, students will be awarded a "calculated grade", sometime before the end of July.

Students will have the right to appeal against the grade awarded or to sit the examination once schools re-open. There will also be an option to take an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to.

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn. As already stated there will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual 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.

If you decide that you would like to take the opportunity to complete an examination to demonstrate your ability we need you to treat the next few months as if you are preparing for the examinations. We will support you as much as we can in helping you to prepare. The government has indicated a student's attitude towards their work over the next few months will play a part in their teacher's assessment of their calculated grade. We will provide work for you to complete in order to support the very best prediction for you from ourselves.

Yours sincerely

*Sara McLoughlin*

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