

Dear student

As you are no doubt already aware, this year's summer exam series, including A levels, GCSEs and other qualifications have been cancelled as part of the government's response to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Last Friday (20th March), the government released further details on how your final grades will now be calculated and awarded. Full details of the announcement can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

In summary:

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.

Teachers will 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 will be provided to schools and colleges).

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.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, will have the same value as those awarded in previous years and will be treated equally in comparison to those from previous years as well.

Ofqual will aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years – this means that this year's students will not face a systematic disadvantage because of these extraordinary circumstances.

If students do not believe the correct process has been followed, they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools have re-opened.

'The Government's priority is 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'.

It is therefore, vitally important that you continue to study and complete all assignments as directed by your teachers during this time.

We hope that this information gives you some clarity and assurance but we understand that there will still be many unanswered questions. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed when we are able. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact the school through enquiries@swracademy.org.

Further guidance for students and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Kindest Regards

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