



6th April 2020

For the Attention of all Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers

I hope you are all managing to stay safe and well during these difficult times. In a normal school year, the Easter holidays would have been a critical time for Year 11 to be focused on their revision for forthcoming GCSE exams and vocational assessments. However, you do not need me to tell you that this is a year like no other that we have ever experienced in schools.

You know already that your GCSE examinations will not now be taking place in the Summer Term, and I am sure you will have read the letter to students from OFQUAL which we circulated to all families last week:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

This letter informs you how your GCSE grades will be decided. There is also a more detailed guide which may help to answer a range of questions which you might have:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

We have looked at this guidance in school and agree that this is the fairest possible process which could have been put in place to make sure that you receive the grades that you deserve.

The OFQUAL letter to students says:

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.'

As a result of this, I have asked all departments to mark any work they currently have from you, but not to set anything further to be used for determining your predicted grades. If you wish to submit anything further for your teachers to consider, this must be sent electronically to your teacher through Show my Homework, or e-mailed (clearly marked for the attention of a named teacher) through the school Enquiries e-mail on the school website by **12 noon on Monday 20th April**.

The letter to all Heads of Centre in schools and colleges nationally has advised caution regarding how we should treat work received from students following the national school closure:

Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.

However, the OFQUAL letter to students also mentions the possibility of sitting exams after the Summer, during the Autumn Term:



Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

These exams could be more than six months away (depending on their scheduling in the Autumn Term which is still to be decided by the Examination Boards) so we shall continue to make past papers available for Year 11 students who wish to continue working towards these exams.

For all students studying vocational courses (i.e. non-GCSE courses - for example CACHE Childcare, BTECs courses, etc) you should continue working on coursework or any other tasks set by your teachers, as further guidance has not been given by OFQUAL for any of these qualifications.

However, for the majority of our students who will be returning to the Sixth Form, Ms Wilson (Head of Sixth Form) will be writing to you with suggestions about how you might start preparing for your courses in Year 12. Year 11 students leaving us to go to other Sixth Forms or who intend to take-up college places may need to contact their chosen post-16 providers to seek guidance on how they should be preparing for their new courses.

We are all very conscious that we have not been able to finish Year 11 with you in the way that any of us would have liked. The Prom has not been cancelled and we are working with the venue to find an alternative date in September to celebrate your five years in school and to share your fantastic memories with your teachers.

Best Wishes and above all else, please stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Guest', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Guest
Headteacher