



7 April 2020

Dear Student

Re: GCSE's, AS and A Level Awarding information and Next Steps

I wrote to your parents/carers last Friday, 3 April 2020, as soon as the information on the process for awarding grades for examinations was published – as an appendix to this letter I attach a copy of the letter from Ofqual which is the organisation responsible for overseeing examinations and the award of grades; below is a link to the Ofqual site which has further detailed information and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

I appreciate this is an anxious time for many of you and you are concerned about what the outcome of this national process will be and how it may affect your future next steps. I wish to reassure you that as a school community, we have your best interests at heart and we will do all that we can to support you with the outcome of the award of examination grades and in supporting you with applications to Sixth Form, to college, onto apprenticeship, to University or whichever route you choose. The process for each of these routes is not yet clear but some organisations are in the process of outlining how they will manage their application process – I will write again when I receive more information.

I have already met with Miss Barrow and the Year Leaders at each Key Stage to review our processes for the award of grades based on the criteria published by Ofqual. We will be working with our data analysis team, as well as with Faculty and Subject Leaders to ensure we submit the grade we believe you would have achieved had you sat your examinations this summer.

When will grades be submitted?

The guidance states that the submission of marks to examination boards will not take place until after 29 May 2020. As we already have Realistic Expected Grades submitted by each class teacher and have undertaken a review, we are developing a robust system that does take everything into account as the guidance suggests. I will be working further with our teams of members of staff to ensure we are confident in our submission of grades based on your class work, homework and all relevant evidence of progress especially where this is the case following Progress Exams (mock exams).

When will I get to know my grades?

Ofqual have not yet published when the award of grades will take place but had examinations gone ahead the Results Days are in place on **13 August 2020 for KS5** and **20 August 2020 for KS4**. As previously stated and as the guidance from Ofqual makes clear, we will not be in a position to let anyone know what the submission of grades has been – I thank you in anticipation of your understanding; I appreciate this is a challenging time and many of you will be anxious about the results – although this is true for all pupils with regard to the examinations whichever year, it is especially difficult for you as you have not had the chance to show off your abilities in examinations but will be given a grade as if you had.

Do I need to continue doing my examination work?

Ofqual make it clear that there is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade. "There will be no requirement to send any supporting evidence, such as student work, to the exam boards but centres should



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retain records of this, in case exam boards have any queries about the data". I understand that for some pupils you will want to continue to bring some work to completion and others will want to continue with their studies. We advise that if you wish to conclude certain pieces of work then do so as it may be good evidence to support where you are at, but Ofqual have stated that centres "should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance". The other consideration is future courses of study; a focus on subjects likely to be studied in the future is advisable to ensure you continue to make progress and develop your knowledge of these subjects.

What if I am unhappy with the grades awarded?

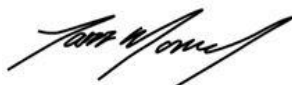
Ofqual have stated that students who feel their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn 2020 or in summer 2021. Ofqual have stated that they are currently in consultation over the process for appeals against any award of grades.

Next steps

It is important to consider how you will draw your examination work to a conclusion and how you will continue with your studies in subjects you wish to study further either in Sixth Form, College or University – please keep in touch with your teachers after the Easter break as they will be able to help and advise as best they can. School remains open and will continue to do so and we will be putting in place advice and guidance in partnership with careers services.

I hope that we may be able to host Results Days as in previous years and celebrate your achievements with you. We will keep in contact with you and your parents/carers. As I receive any further information, I will keep you updated. All your teachers and I are incredibly proud of what you have achieved, and will no doubt continue to achieve. With our very best wishes, we hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morrel', written in a cursive style.

Ian Morrel

Headteacher



A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when

making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

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.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

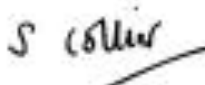
We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new

information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underlining the name.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator, Ofqual