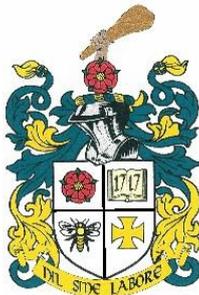


Headteacher:
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Founded in 1717

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Ref: ACh/cpo

22nd April 2020

Dear Year 11, (and parents and carers)

I hope you and your families are well and that you enjoyed the Easter sunshine.

I know many of you are concerned about what will happen with your GCSE grades in the summer. This letter gives you the latest information we have so far about the process.

Ofqual have published some information about how they will calculate the summer examination grades. They have opened a consultation to gain views on this proposal and you can find all the details on the Ofqual website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual> .

After the consultation closes, there will be final guidance issued to schools.

Please be reassured that when we submit a "Centre Assessed Grade" for each subject, we will use a full range of information. Since you started the courses in Year 10, we have a lot of information about how you have progressed and performed in every subject. In line with the guidance issued, we will use the following information to provide a rounded view to identify your "Centre Assessed Grade":

- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including Academic Monitoring, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.
- performance on any class or homework assessments and prelim / mock exams taken over the course of study.

The Department for Education have been very clear about a number of points:

1. Students are not allowed to know any of the predicted grades
2. While the schools have been closed, students have not had equal access to work (linked to online learning etc), this cannot be detrimental to any student grade and therefore no new work should specifically be used to calculate the grade as this would be deemed an unfair process.

We have to follow the rules and procedures stringently to make sure that every grade awarded is fair, that we are not breaking any of the rules and that there is integrity in this process.

What does this mean for you as a student?

Your GCSE grades will be published on 23rd August 2020. At the moment, we are expecting this to be in the usual way by collecting them at school. (We may need to organise a rota for collection if social distancing rules are still in place).

Following the advice from OFQUAL:

- We will continue to set work / revision for your GCSE / vocational subjects (where there is an examination) so that you can keep your brain active and make sure you remember all of your learning should you wish to sit an examination in the autumn term.
- We will not be asking you to complete any new non-examined assessment information as this could be deemed unfair for those with less access at home.
- Vocational subjects will stop setting assignment work for students given advice from OFQUAL regarding some students being disadvantaged at home.

I know some of the Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges have started to contact you with work that you can be doing to prepare for the next stage of your education, I am sure you will enjoy these pre-learning opportunities.

Please do not contact teachers and ask them what grade you will be awarded, or to try to influence your grade by making special requests for various factors to be taken into account or to require additional marking of examination papers that you have not been set by your teacher.

I know that this is a worrying time for you all but I ask that you have faith in the work completed over the last 18 months; you have been working up to this exam season for eleven years and not just the last month. We recognise that there are always gains to be made in those last few weeks but the majority of the learning and progress has already taken place.

I will continue to keep you informed as we receive information from the government, in the meantime please follow the social distancing guidelines and keep yourselves safe. I look forward to seeing you again in the future for our Year 11 celebrations.

With kind regards



Mrs Alison Chapman
Headteacher