

6 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Information from Ofqual about GCSE grades for summer 2020

I hope that you are keeping well. The exams regulator Ofqual issued clarification and guidance last Friday concerning the awarding of grades for all examinations that were due to take place this summer. The full guidance is attached for your information, but I have set out the main points below.

All schools and colleges have been asked to submit a centre assessment grade for each examination for which a student was entered. This grade will take into account the full range of available evidence, including non-exam assessment, the results of any homework assignments or mock exams, and any other records of student performance over the course of study.

Schools and colleges have also been asked to submit a rank order for students within each grade boundary. This is to help the exam boards with the moderation process where a more detailed picture of each centre's assessment grades will be needed.

We are being asked to make judgements based on a student's work to date and development during the course; no new work or assessments will take place. We will not need to submit any supporting evidence (such as examples of students' work) to the exam boards, but we are required to retain records in case the exam boards have any queries about the data.

To make sure that grades are fair between schools and colleges, exam boards will put all centre assessment grades through a process of standardisation, which is currently being developed by Ofqual. It is expected that this will look at evidence such as the expected national outcomes for this year's students, the prior attainment of students at each school and college, and the results of the school or college in recent years.

Standardisation will not change the rank order of students within each centre. However, if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more severe or generous than others, exam boards will adjust the grades of some or all of those students upwards or downwards accordingly.

The statistical model used for standardisation will consider prior attainment at a whole-school level, not at an individual-student level. This means that students' individual performance will not be predetermined by how well they did in key stage 2 tests.

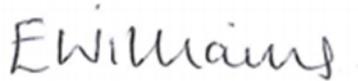
Schools and colleges must not share provisional grades or rank orders with students or parents before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements. It is important, therefore, that staff are not approached by students or parents with regard to this process.

Results will not be delayed until after the dates they were expected to be received in August and ideally will be issued a little earlier.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn term or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

Please take some time to read the full guidance issued by Ofqual as this will likely answer any additional questions that you may have. Rest assured that the staff will be working hard in the coming weeks to ensure that students receive a fair outcome and the results they deserve.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E Williams".

E Williams
Deputy Headteacher