



21st March 2020

Dear Year 11 students, parents and carers

COVID-19 EXAM Grade Update

The Department of Education released a statement yesterday evening giving clarity on how they are going to be awarding GCSE grades and the options being offered around exam grading for this summer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

Ofqual and Exam boards have stated that our GCSE students will be awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. They report that the DfE has outlined that students will be awarded a calculated grade for their GCSEs this summer and offer an option for those that wish to sit exams to be allowed to do so as reasonably possible after schools reopen.

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.

- To produce this, teachers will be asked to 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 soon.
- 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.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.

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- They also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal if they do not believe a correct process has been followed. Otherwise, if students do not feel that their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at 'the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again.'
- Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.
- Regarding vocational and technical qualifications, where students may have already completed non-exam assessments which would provide evidence to award a grade, Ofqual is currently 'working urgently' with respective exam boards 'to explore options' and will provide more details soon.

I hope this eases the worry that you have been recently experiencing. Please talk to your child and discuss today's statement. Our Creative Media BTEC students continued to sit another controlled assessment today showing a great commitment and making us very proud of them. Their work will help provide evidence towards a grade for this qualification for them.

We are still very much working on exam administration and will provide all the evidence requested to ensure our students get the grades they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Lynsey Slater
Principal