

7 May 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well and are not feeling too anxious about the process of obtaining your grades for your GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Please do rest assured that we will be doing everything we can to ensure that we secure the best outcomes possible for you all in every subject you have studied. If you are worried, or would like to talk to us further about this, please contact the academy. In the meantime, please continue to complete the work set by your teachers and remain busy in preparation for continuing your education with your Post-16 provider.

The process for submitting grades is still being outlined by the awarding bodies and Ofqual and we must abide by their process and directives in order to ensure that we remain compliant at all times.

Our first step has been for **class teachers and Heads of Department to issue a grade in each subject and a rank order of students within each grade**. This process is currently underway. We are using all available evidence to arrive at this judgment, including mock exam performance, historical data about performance in each subject and teachers' own knowledge of the students. These grades will be submitted to me and my Executive Principal for checking, before we forward this information to the exam boards.

We do not yet know how this information will be used by the awarding bodies and, as such, **I cannot give you any assurances that the grades we award will be the final grades awarded to our students**. We are not in control of this. **We do know that exam boards will be using historical performance of the school to amend and award grades – I will write to you with further information about this when I have it.**

Please do be aware that **we cannot share any of the information around grades and rank orders with anyone** – to do so would be a breach of confidentiality and would be deemed to be malpractice by the exam boards. We have also been informed that we must notify the exam board of any attempt to influence the decisions around awarding grades, and the rank order, from students or parents. For this reason, **it is vital that you do not contact us to make a case for a student to receive a particular grade. If you do, this could result in the student being penalised through the exam boards' malpractice policies.**

I understand that this must be a very frustrating time. All of us have given everything we can to ensure that our Year 11 cohort secured the best outcomes they could; and the year group has been phenomenal in terms of their application to their studies. We know that the results they would have secured would have been the best in the history of the school. Due to this, we are all devastated that they will not have the opportunity to prove this by sitting their exams this summer. However, we have to engage in this process and will do everything we can to support you all – regardless of the outcomes.

It is clear that the exam boards will run an appeals process and that there will be the opportunity for students to sit some examinations in the future. Again, I will write to you when more details are released in relation to this.

Thank you for your patience at such a difficult time. I hope that you all continue to stay safe and please do let us know if we can support you in any way.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

