

15 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In addition to our Rossett News this week, I am writing to you regarding Year 10 and the cancellation of their expected formal examinations this summer and also about subsequent changes to their remote learning from Monday 18 May.

Ofqual have written to all schools with students who were due to complete GCSE, BTEC, AS and A-Level examinations this summer.

Examination Outcomes – Summer 2020

With the cancellation of examinations this summer, Ofqual have asked schools to generate predicted grades for each student in each of their subjects. Ofqual have defined this 'predicted grade' as 'the grade that teachers believe students were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned'. Our staff will be entering these grades over the next two weeks before a thorough checking process is conducted and the grades are submitted to the exam boards. Following advice from Ofqual, teachers will use a range of evidence to generate these predicted grades, including:

- Classwork and homework
- Results in assignments and mock exams
- Any non-exam assessment or coursework
- General progress throughout the course

Before the grades are submitted to exam boards, subject leaders are also required to order students within each grade bracket, to indicate which students are most and least secure in each grade. This information will then be used by exam boards to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges. This also means that the final grade that students receive could be different from the one we submit to the exam board.

Schools have been instructed in the strongest possible terms not to discuss the grades they will be submitting to exam boards with either parents or students. Therefore we would ask you not to contact any teacher or other member of the school staff about these grades. Any email correspondence we receive about this matter will be ignored.

Ofqual would like to reassure students that the grades they receive this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help them move forward in their lives as planned.

The government have also recently confirmed that results days will go ahead on the original dates as planned:

A-Level: Thursday 13 AugustGCSE: Thursday 20 August

Remote Learning – Changes from next week

After the confirmation of the examination arrangements for the option subjects for Year 10, the advice to schools is that students in Year 10 are not required to continue with their study of this option course, and instead students should continue to prepare for the rest of their GCSE and BTEC courses which will be examined in Year 11 (Summer 2021).

From Monday 18 May, therefore, students in Year 10 will no longer be set lessons for their summer 2020 examined option subject, but will continue to be set work in all other subjects.

Any parent with questions regarding the changes to remote learning, is advised to contact the Director of Learning for Year 10, Mr M Bulmer: mbulmer@rossettschool.co.uk

This is great news for our students in Year 10 who will have their two years of hard work and preparation recognised in the award of a final grade this summer (2020). They will not now have to sit the examination in their early option subject either this year or in the summer 2021 season, when they will sit their remaining BTEC and GCSE examinations.

H Woodcock Headteacher