

24 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this update finds you and your families safe and well and that you have all had time to rest, enjoying some family time and beautiful sunshine over the Easter holidays and during this first week of our new term.

Before the holiday, we shared with you the <u>letter</u> that Ofqual have written to all students due to complete GCSE, AS and A-Level examinations this summer. I am writing with further details about these arrangements, specifically for students in Year 10.

In the initial guidance published by Ofqual on 3rd April, they stated that students in Years 11 and above would receive a standardised grade produced by schools and exam boards. However, they also made this statement about students in Year 10 or below due to sit examinations this summer:

"We propose that grades will <u>not</u> be issued for students in year 10 or below, and that centres should withdraw any entries for them, but we will shortly consult on this proposal. We realise that, if the final decision is to exclude year 10 and below students, this will be disappointing for those students, but our objective in awarding grades based on teachers' judgements is primarily to allow students to progress to the next stage of their education, or to employment or training. Students in year 10 and below will have the opportunity to sit exams in future exam series. We will make a final decision and provide further information before any data needs to be submitted to the exam boards."

Since this statement was released Ofqual have launched their consultation into these processes and schools have been instructed not to withdraw Year 10 students from their examination entries, as yet. Following this consultation, we are hopeful that Ofqual will reverse this decision and will allow grades for Year 10 students to be generated in the same way as for students in Years 11, 12 and 13.

However, if they do not change their minds then we will have no choice other than to withdraw Year 10 students from this exam series and enter them for the examinations they should be sitting, at the first available opportunity – this is likely to be in the Autumn Term.

Once we have any further details about this decision, we will contact you again. In the meantime, we are asking students in Year 10 to continue with their studies towards all of their subjects on our remote learning platform.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr C Stone Deputy Headteacher