Dear Year 11, Year 12 (Level 2 courses) and Year 13 Students and their Parents/Carers,

You will be aware of much that has been said regarding qualification grades for students in current Years 11, Y12 (Level 2) and 13, including the announcement that public examinations will not run this summer. We recognise that this is a time of significant uncertainty and so have put together some of the announcements and FAQs from the government along with our next steps, to support greater awareness for students and families.


There will be no examinations in May/June 2020. Qualification results will be awarded to students using teacher predictions (informed by mock examination results, coursework/NEA, and other assessments) combined with other relevant data including prior attainment (for Year 11 and Y12 (Level 2) this is likely to mean Year 6 data and for Year 13 students this may mean GCSE data and Year 6 data). The government are working with Ofqual and teacher representatives to work out the specifics.

Qualification grades will be given to students before the end of July 2020. It is expected that the distribution of grades will match the usual annual national picture, for example there will be a similar number of 4-9 and 7-9 grades nationally in mathematics GCSE as there were last year.

The following are also significant:

- Students may appeal against results if they feel that they have been incorrectly awarded.
- In addition, if students do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit examinations at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again.
- Students will also have the option to sit their examinations in summer 2021.

Our next steps for Year 11, Year 12 (Level 2) and Year 13 learning:

Subject staff will post on Show My Homework (smhw) work for Year 11, Year 12 (Level 2) and Year 13 students to enable them to continue their studies. This is because:

- All work is likely to feed into teacher prediction and therefore students still have the opportunity to contribute work for assessment. Students are asked not to contact their teachers asking for their predicted grades. When the Government issues clear guidelines about how staff are to create predicted grades they will also inform schools about whether they are able to share these predicted grades with students.
- Once they have received grades in July, students may choose to sit subject examinations when these become available nationally shortly after schools return to normality.
- If students decide they would like to take any subject examinations in the summer season of 2021 they will need to have been taught the whole course.
• Students will be starting courses at 6th form or university or apprenticeships that will need students to have subject specific knowledge and this can still be developed remotely.

We ask students and families to discuss expectations around work output. Teachers will not be seeing students daily to check understanding and progress and so we ask that parents/carers monitor their child's work output daily in relation to work set on smhw.
• We will set work for each lesson of the day according to your child’s normal school timetable. Work will either be posted on smhw at the start of each lesson or by 09:15 each morning. This will start from tomorrow.
• All work will be set on smhw even if the work directs students to other platforms such as GCSEPod.
• Students are able to ask questions of their teachers through smhw or school email.
• Students will be expected to submit work via smhw/school email/other appropriate platforms.
We may review the approach to setting and marking work electronically once predicted grades have been sent off, as long as all course material has been taught.

Government Issued FAQs:
Students and families may wish to read the full linked article here:

What will happen to those who have already done some non-examination assessment?
The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-examination assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools. Ofqual is working urgently with the examination boards to set out proposals for how this process will work.

Will all students get their predicted grade?
No, we know that simply using predicted grades would not be fair to all students. The calculated grade will take into account teachers’ assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment.

Will schools be using mock examination results as a barometer for results – and is this fair on students as they did not know at the time these would be used as their final mark?
Mock examination results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account, alongside other factors. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.

Will universities/colleges/sixth forms accept these calculated grades?
Calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as those awarded any other year.

What about vocational and technical qualifications? (BTECs and Functional Skills for example.)
There is a wide range of vocational and technical qualifications. We are encouraging organisations to show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged. Ofqual is working with the sector to explore options and we will provide details shortly.

What if I have started my coursework but it is not finished?
Examination boards will provide advice on this to schools and colleges as soon as possible.
Do universities need to start making unconditional offers/should I accept an unconditional offer?
The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years. Universities should not begin making new unconditional offers and applicants should feel no pressure to accept such offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each examination they would have taken.

If I take the examination option, will I still be able to go to university this year?
Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, will have the opportunity to sit an examination, as soon as is reasonably possible after the beginning of the academic year. While it cannot be guaranteed in every circumstance, Universities UK has assured us that the majority of universities will show the utmost flexibility to ensure that such students who take this option are able to begin their course with a delayed start time. If a student is in this circumstance, they should speak to the university from which they have an offer after receiving their calculated grade.

Might the examinations be reinstated if the coronavirus (COVID-19) is not as bad as expected?
No.

We will share further information as and when appropriate. In the meantime, we wish all of our students and their families well.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Arwel Jones