

19/04/2020

Dear all

Firstly, Happy Easter, I hope you and your friends and family are keeping safe and well, in these extraordinary and difficult time.

I have never known a situation such as this and can only imagine what Year 11 and Year 13 students and their families are going through. No one would have wanted their school year to end in this way, but as I say this situation is extraordinary.

OFQUAL<sup>1</sup> have published their guidance for us all, regarding how the summer results will be decided and it appears to us to be as sensible and pragmatic solution as is possible. Will it suit everyone? No, but I'm not sure any solution would.

Their guidance can be found at;

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/878869/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_EPQ\\_AEA\\_in\\_maths\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents\\_UPDATED\\_09APR2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf)

This is what we will follow. I've paraphrased it as best I can, below.

### **Schools will produce Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs).**

We will use professional judgement to do this, supported by a bank of evidence. The Government is asking us to state what the students would have achieved **“if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.”** The evidence will include non-examined coursework, internal assessments, mock exams and general testing.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.

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They are asking Heads of Department and teachers to consider each student's performance over the course of study and make a realistic judgement of the grade each student would have been most likely to achieve - this must include Ungraded (U) where appropriate.

- Students shouldn't be asked to do any more work.
- Any work we have should be marked as it will add to the evidence base.
- There is no requirement to send any "evidence" to the exam boards.

**Rank Order:** Where students are being given a specific grade (7 for example) the staff will be expected to rank those students from highest to lowest within that grade. If 12 students have a grade 8 then the ranking should be from 1 - 12. No "joint" grades will be allowed. (This will also apply to the EPQ.) For combined Science the grades will be 2/1, 2/2, 3/2, 3/3 etc

- Each exam board will set up their own model of how to collect the grades from schools.
- The earliest this will happen is **29 May 2020** and then there is intended to be a two-week collection period.
- Exam results will still be given out on the exam results days; **Year 13 on 13<sup>th</sup> August and Year 11 on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

Ofqual will then **standardise** the grades based on; prior attainment, previous school performance and expected national grade distribution.

- Students won't see these grades. No discussion can take place with students or families regarding these grades. Why? Because the grades we put through may not be the final grades, they may be amended during the **standardising** process.
- Students who don't believe that the grades they have been given is a fair reflection of their ability, will have the opportunity to sit the exams in autumn 2020 or the summer series of exams 2021. We haven't yet had details about the autumn exam season.

At Westfield, next week Ms Riaz, Mrs Neal and myself will start working with teachers and Heads of Faculty on the CAGs. All grades will be carefully checked. The process will go from teachers, to Heads of Faculty, to SLT then final sign off will be by Ms Riaz, Mrs Neal and me. We will expect teachers and faculties to be able to back up their grades with internal data.

Sixth Form enrolment will happen as close to normal as possible. On 20<sup>th</sup> August on "GCSE Results Day" the Sixth Form team will be available to enrol students and offer advice and guidance about courses and places.

I can only imagine how stressful this situation must be for you all. What I can say to reassure you is that each year myself and the Governing Body expect detailed information from teachers regarding what the summer's GCSE and A-Level results are likely to be. Each year Ms Riaz presents these to

me and the Governors at the Achievement committee and each year they are extremely close to the actual results. For example, last Year English and Maths teachers outline that 57% of students would get a grade 4 or above in English and Maths and the actual result was 57%.

I guess all I want to do is assure you that we will do all that we can to follow the guidance outlined by OFQUAL carefully and with sensitivity.

Best wishes to you all. I look forward to seeing you all when we have all safely come out the other side of this situation.

Mr T P Body  
Headteacher