



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

23 March 2020

Re. Holiday Work for Public Examinations

Dear Parents,

This letter applies to all those whose children were expecting public exams this summer. I have sent it to all parents so everyone is aware of our response to the government's decision to cancel exams and to remind everyone that **by the time of the scheduled start of next term we will be ready to provide suitable academic work remotely to all pupils for as long as the lockdown persists.**

The Department for Education (DfE) has stated that grades will be awarded to students in GCSEs and A-levels which 'fairly reflect the work that they have put in'. This will be based on information supplied by the school, including teachers' judgement as to what grade a student would have achieved in an exam, based on the available evidence and data. Any information we submit will be assessed by Ofqual (the exams regulator) and the exam boards.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

The updated guidance from the government is, as yet, short of any real detail on the formula used to calculate these grades and thus for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, we cannot give certain advice on how best to approach next term's work. As soon as concrete guidance comes, I will update those pupils and their parents and set to work devising an approach which best advantages them. (For any families that have suffered Covid-19 infection, been forced to self-isolate, been absent from school prior to March 20th, or otherwise been significantly affected by the outbreak, advice is to keep a log of dates and any medical records. This is purely precautionary, but may be useful in ensuring fair assessment further down the line.)

Holiday Work

In the meantime, Years 9, 10 and 12 need not do any holiday work save for any coursework or enrichment targets that specific departments may have set. Those in Year 10 and 12 expecting to take early qualifications will not now be able to do so this summer's sitting so need not be concerned about revision for this holiday.

For Years 11 and 13, what they need to prepare, if anything, for these formula-adjusted grades is not yet known. **In the attached flowcharts** I have offered the best advice I can given the information we have now on how they might profitably use the holiday. We want them to stay on track without having to flog themselves practising the technique for exams which will not take place this summer. I hope these flowcharts do not seem too complicated – they represent my attempt to provide useful advice for the



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

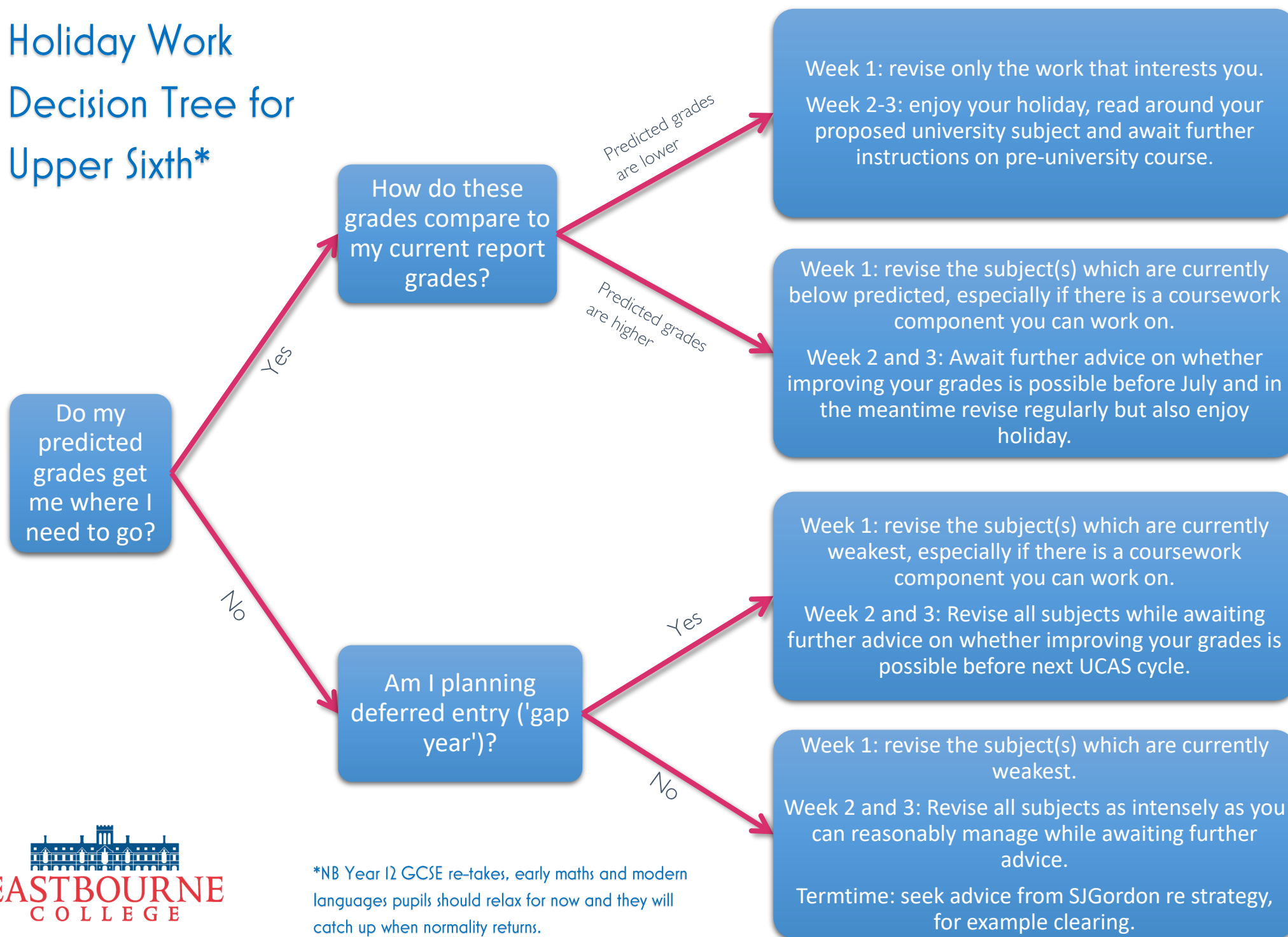
next three weeks, by which time we will know more about the grade calculations and the best plan for next term's learning.

Thank you for your understanding. I will update you if there are any substantial changes; until then, I hope those who can rest can enjoy family time as unperturbed as possible by these vexing times.

Yours sincerely,

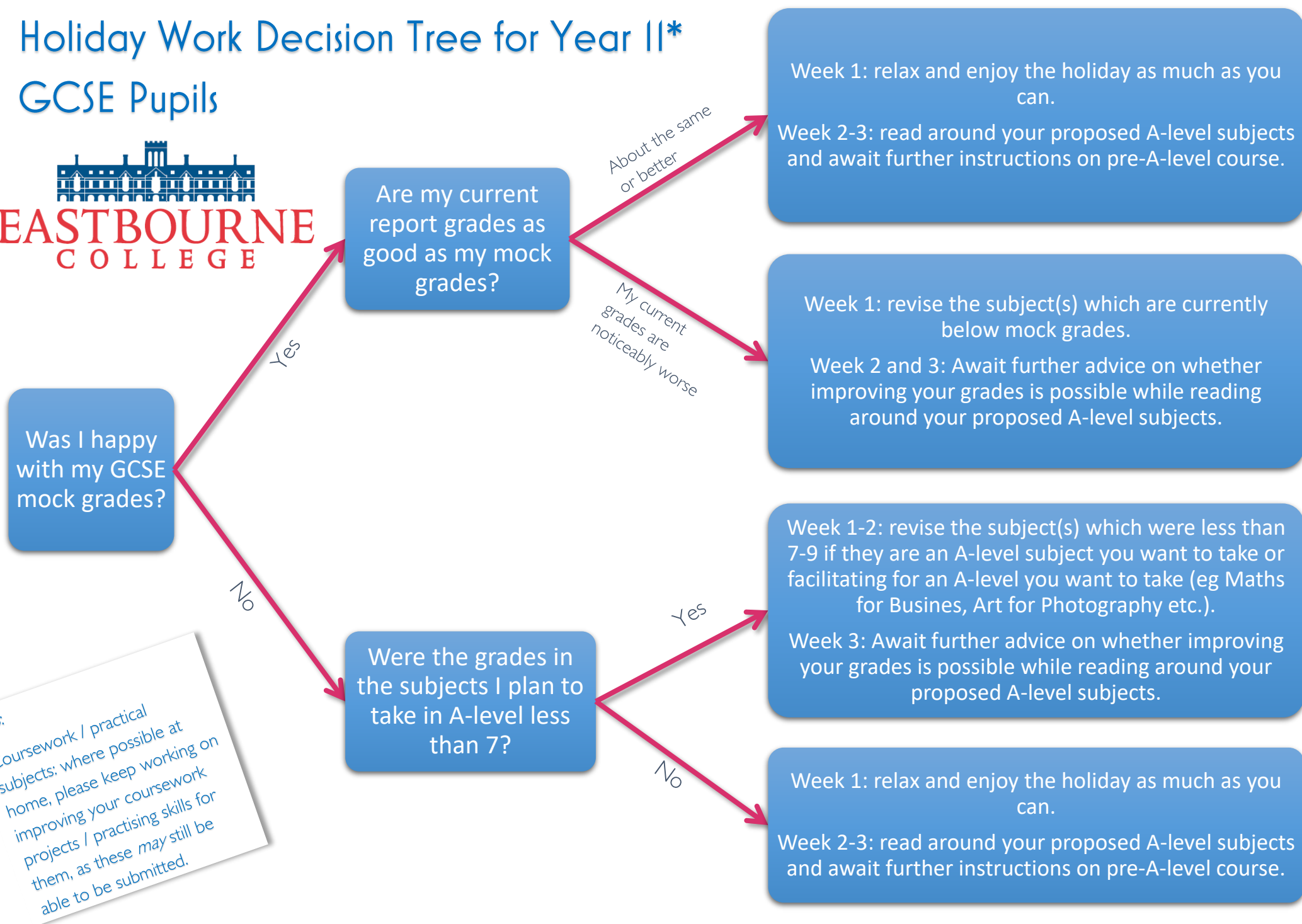
Tom Lawson
Headmaster

Holiday Work Decision Tree for Upper Sixth*



Holiday Work Decision Tree for Year 11*

GCSE Pupils



*NB Year 10 Early Maths and Modern Languages pupils should relax for now and they will catch up when normality returns.