



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Today, at last, the letter we have been expecting all week from OfQual has come explaining the decision on GCSE and A-level exams. This summary, therefore, is primarily for Y13 and Y11 parents but so no-one feels out of the loop I have sent it to everyone. I have also attached the guidance with this letter and everything is available on our [website](#).

The guidance from OfQual essentially says that GCSE and A-level grades will be determined by schools on the basis of pupils' achievement to date. The school will submit grades and then OfQual will use information about the cohort and past performance of the school in order to moderate our grades up or down. To summarise the key details from OfQual's guidance:

GCSE and A-level grades will be based on two things:

1. Centre assessment grades (the grade the school judges the candidate would have achieved in the summer)
2. A rank order of pupils within each awarded grade

1. Centre Assessment Grades

- Fair, reasonable, professionally considered and most likely grade that would have been achieved, including any Non-Examined Assessment (known as 'NEA' – coursework etc.)
- Grades will be based on an holistic judgement balancing evidence across the whole course of study (i.e. not just mock exams or predicted grades, but other assessments too)
- Evidence may include, for example: progress review (e.g. eRCs), classwork, written work, block tests, internal exams and participation in practical subjects e.g. drama
- NEA does not need to be completed, but should be considered when awarding the centre Assessment Grade
- It is expected that the profile of centre Assessment Grades will be similar to those achieved at candidate and centre level in recent years
- Pupils with access arrangements (e.g. scribes or readers) will be awarded grades as though those measures were in place

2. Rank Order

- Within each grade pupils will be ranked from highest to lowest
- Teachers need to agree the ranking
- Evidence should be used to support the ranking including any NEA

General

- No exams for Yr 10 or below (wait until next year) though still some consultation on this
- Yr 12 pupils taking GCE exams should be awarded a grade if they have been entered for summer 2020
- No further assessments are needed
- Centre Assessment grades cannot be disclosed to candidates or their families
- No data needs to be submitted until **May 29th at the earliest**
- Cambridge Assessments are not included in the guidance but the process is similar and will be confirmed on Tuesday.



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Statistical Standardisation

- All grades will be subject to statistical standardisation using a model developed between the boards and OfQual
- Moderation will include: distribution of grades nationally; centre results from previous years at candidate level; centre results from previous years at subject / centre level
- Prior attainment at centre level

Opportunity to Take Exams

- Students can re-take the exams in the autumn or following summer series. Both the awarded grade this year and the re-take grade will stand.

What this means for the College is that our teachers will set to work from the beginning of term to thoroughly process the data in order to produce the fairest possible grade for all pupils.

Exam pupils do not need to complete any further holiday revision. They should be using the time to enjoy rest with the family and stretching their mind with wider reading and stimulation. Year 11 pupils should firm up their choice of A-level as much as possible because when term re-starts they can do some really meaningful work to get themselves prepared to thrive in sixth form. Educationally, this is actually a better opportunity than revising for exams. Year 13 will be similarly stimulated and given a superb chance to transition to university-style thinking. We will, of course, support those pupils who need or wish to revise for re-takes in autumn or the following summer. Please be patient with us as we thrash out the details of how we deliver all this to the best advantage of every pupil in the school.

There are great challenges for the College thanks to this crisis, and I have been hugely grateful for messages of support that I have received from parents. We continue to provide services for key workers' children and resources to the NHS alongside all the preparation that is going on for next term. As difficult as we are all finding the circumstances, I genuinely believe that we have an opportunity over the coming months to achieve something educationally sound and exciting.

Best wishes,

Tom Lawson
Headmaster