

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **GCSE and A Level Examinations 2020 Update**

Happy Easter to you all and we do hope that you are all safe and well at this time. We have received very little further information since the OFQUAL letter that we circulated before Easter but we did wish to touch base.

#### **Awarding of Grades**

To reiterate what has previously been shared; schools will be providing examination boards with teacher assessed grades as to how they believe they would have performed in the summer. Schools will also be ranking these students. These grades submitted will not necessarily be the grade that the exam board chose to award there may be some slight adjustment following a standardisation process. We have received a number of queries from students who have improved significantly since their mock exams. Please be reassured that we know that all students work differently. Some perform best in mock exams, others perform at their best in final exams. This is why we will be making holistic judgements about the grades we believe our students would have most likely achieved had they been able to complete their assessments. We are asking teachers to use their professional expertise to draw on the full range of available evidence rather than solely assigning grades based on performance in a mock exam, for example.

#### **Results Days**

Results will be released on the published results days as originally planned. These are 13<sup>th</sup> August for A level and 20 August for GCSE.

#### **Autumn Exams**

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression. It is then intended that results will be awarded before Christmas 2020.

#### **Current Working**

Students should still be working as if they were preparing for their summer exam series for two key reasons. Firstly, to ensure that they are academically sharp for the next stage in their academic pathway and secondly to ensure that they are prepared to take an examination in the Autumn exam series if they are not satisfied by the grade they are awarded. Whilst teachers will be setting work to support students with this they will not be monitored to same degree as students in lower years, this is so students can choose to prioritise their personal focus areas.

#### **Confidentiality of Grades**

You will not be able to see the grades that the school is submitting for your son or daughter, these are confidential. Please do not at any point contact their subject teacher or subject leader to discuss the submitting of grades. They will not be able to discuss this with you.

We understand the difficulty that your young people are facing and please be assured that we are still here to help and support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Shenton