

3rd April 2020

**Parents and Guardians
TQEA Year 11 Students**

Dear Parent / Guardians

GCSE, AS and A Level Examination Grades – Summer 2020

As you may have seen, details were published today of how grades will be awarded to students taking GCSEs, AS level and A level qualifications in England. Details for how vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded this summer will follow later from Ofqual (the organisation which oversees exams and qualifications in this country).

Your child should receive a letter today on this subject from Sally Collier, who leads Ofqual. This letter outlines the process, but we also wanted to ensure you heard from us today so that you understood how grades will be awarded to students this summer. You can of course also ask us any specific questions if anything is not clear.

Your child's teachers will provide assessed grades in each subject they are taking. These assessments will be based on what the teacher believed each student would have achieved had they sat examinations this summer, and on a range of evidence.

This will include:

1. Students' classwork and bookwork, or performances in practical subjects such PE, music or drama
2. Any non-examination assessments - whether or not completed
3. The results of any assignments or mock examinations
4. Any previous public examination results (which would be most relevant for sixth form students).

We have not been asked to set any additional work or mock exams to arrive at these assessed grades; but the importance of, and right to, a continuing education is of course critical and we will be continuing to provide work so that our students carry on with their studies in preparation for the next stage of education. We would ask you to continue to support your child to help them do this, so they do not fall behind.

Teachers will also be asked to rank students in order for each subject, for example, for all those students with a centre assessment grade of 5 in GCSE maths, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on. This information will be used in the statistical standardisation of centres' judgements. These assessed grades will be strictly confidential and we will not be allowed to share these grades with students or parents. We have been asked to send these grades to Ofqual by the end of May/start of June 2020 (the exact date is to be finalised by Ofqual).

Ofqual will then examine all the submitted grades and decide what the final grades for each student in each subject should be. It is developing the model it will use to do this, so all grades are fair, but it expects to use a range of information to do this such as students' prior attainment and previous exam results in all schools and academies. Your child will get their final grades in the summer. Ofqual has stated that results will be provided no later than originally expected (in August 2020); but that the objective is to provide grades earlier than that so that you and your child have certainty as soon as possible.

An appeals process will be created by Ofqual in the near future. Ofqual has also said that it is working with examination boards to establish whether or not it is possible for students to sit exams, if they would like to, during the autumn term. More information on both of these processes will follow, and we will share that when it is available from Ofqual.

Clearly these are unprecedented circumstances, and the situation in all walks of life at the moment is far from ideal. However, we hope this provides some level of certainty on how the process will work this summer for examination grades for GCSEs, AS levels and A levels. Ofqual has said it would like to reassure families that the grades your child will get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, so that young people can move forward in their lives as planned.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>.

We hope this gives answers to questions you may have, but if not, please do not hesitate to contact us via email using info@tqea.org.uk.

In the meantime, we hope you and your family are staying safe and are in good health.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wilson
Executive Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy