



Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

Public Examination Awards for 2020

As you will be aware, all students who were scheduled to take public examinations this summer now face uncertainty and some understandable concern regarding how their grades will be awarded. I hope this letter will be of some reassurance to you all and help to allay any concerns.

We will be closely following updates from the Department for Education, and applying the following process:

- **Step 1** - The awarding bodies (i.e. the exam boards) will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grades that they believe each student would have received if exams had gone ahead
- **Step 2** - To produce the above, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment
- **Step 3** - The awarding bodies will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student
- **Step 4** – The awarding bodies will aim to provide students with calculated grades before the end of July
- **Step 5** - If students do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case, they will be able to appeal on that basis. We do not have details of how this process will work at the time of writing, but will update you when we do
- **Step 6** – If an appeal is unsuccessful and students still do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the chance to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. At the time of writing, we do not know when this will be. If that exam still does not yield the result students are hoping for, they will also have the option to re-sit their exam in summer 2021

In anticipation of further specific guidance, we have asked staff to start considering this process and have stressed to them that our underlying principle in offering proposed grades will be to be **“fair but kind”**. The judgements we are able to submit will necessarily be informed by what we are allowed to take into consideration, and any grades we put forward may well be moderated up or down by the exam boards or by Ofqual. We ask that pupils and parents do not contact teaching staff directly to make pleas regarding these professional judgements.



Please be reassured that it is in the interests of teachers, pupils and parents alike to get this right as we hope and trust it will ultimately give students a just reward for all of their hard work and recognition of their academic abilities.

Some departments face additional challenges in respect of NEA work (non-examined assessment, a.k.a. coursework) which cannot now be completed and assessed in the usual way; these departments will also be in touch with more information as and when they receive the necessary guidance.

Please be assured of our positive commitment to the principle of “fair but kind” in reaching these judgements and be aware that we cannot engage in correspondence with individual pupils or parents regarding specific qualifications.

I will write again when I am able to share some further details with you and until then wish you and your families all the very best for health and happiness during these unusual circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D J Budds
Deputy Headteacher