



A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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22 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update - Awarding of KS4 and KS5 Qualifications

As I'm sure you will have seen, the Government announced the outline of their approach to awarding grades to Year 11 and Year 13 students following the cancellation of public examinations this summer. I know that you and your child will have been as frustrated as we are in the timing of the announcement, just as schools were closing for almost all students.

The following is an extract from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>, which gives details of the approach:

"The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances."

As you can see there are no technical details of how the process will work or exactly how the Government expects schools to use performance data in reaching their judgement. As soon as we know the details I will of course contact you again and then will



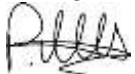
endeavour to answer any questions you may have. Please can I ask that you do not contact school with any questions at the moment as we simply do not have the answers.

I must also stress that it is inappropriate for any student or parent to contact a teacher directly to express a view or indeed attempt to influence the grade the school may put forward in its judgement.

In the meantime, please would you ensure that your child keeps all of their books/folders/work safe as they may be needed at some point.

I know that this is an extremely difficult and uncertain time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students; if you have any other questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting school.

Kind regards



Mr P Mitchell
(Acting Headteacher)