



SIR THOMAS BOUGHEY ACADEMY

Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

On Friday, the Department for Education released an update on arrangements for the Summer 2020 Examination season, a summary of which has been provided in this letter.

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

This means ensuring GCSE 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 this 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.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said that if students do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case, they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

STBA is proud to be part of the



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Although we do not yet know what the guidance for the calculation of the final grade will include, it is apparent that a range of evidence and data will be used. This update from the Department for Education should help to reassure Year 11 students that their future grades will not be derived solely from their PPEs.

We need to urge Year 11 students to continue revising, learning, and improving. Due to the fact that more information is yet to be released, it is still possible that there will be an assessment of some form in the summer, therefore students need to be as prepared as they would have been for their GCSE exams. They must also remember that learning lasts forever. All of their hard work, skills, and knowledge - that is theirs to keep.

Year 11 students will be going through a rollercoaster of emotions at the moment: they will feel angry, sad, disappointed, worried and confused. They might not feel much at all, they might feel empty. We need to reassure them that these feelings are normal and completely understandable and that everyone would experience varying degrees of them in this situation.

I would like to thank our Year 11 students for being such a fabulous year group. I'm sure they will feel like they've lost out, not having the same end to their secondary education as everyone else. We will, where possible, look at alternative dates for the prom. We cannot make any guarantees as we don't know what the next few weeks / months will hold, but we do absolutely have that intent.

As soon as we know more about how the grades are to be calculated, we will of course be in touch.

I wish you and your families well over the coming weeks. Please look after each other.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Hingley

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