

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Qfqual announcement

The government has recently released more information about the awarding of qualifications for this summer's GCSE and A Level examinations. I wanted to write to you in person to make sure that you understand how grades will be awarded this summer.

Students who were due to sit A level, AS level or GCSE exams this summer will receive a **calculated grade**. The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, as well as other factors such as prior attainment, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges so that no particular group of students is disadvantaged.

Teachers will be asked to provide exam boards with 'centre assessment grades' for students in each subject. These will be based on what teachers believe each student would have achieved had they sat the exams this summer. Teachers will take classwork, non-examined components, coursework and mock exam results, where appropriate, into account.

It is important for students to know that they will not be asked to complete any additional work or mock exams to inform these grades. However, it is important that they continue to study to help prepare for their next steps, and we will continue to set work which is appropriate to support them in this. We will be working with other providers as well as our NE6 Sixth Form team to do this.

We must also emphasise that Ofqual has told schools that these centre assessment grades need to be confidential, and that teachers will not be allowed to share these grades with students. Therefore, **please do not ask us for these grades**.

Ofqual will look at the centre assessment grades from schools alongside a range of other information and will decide what the final calculated grades for each student should be. They are working hard with exam boards to make sure that the grades awarded are fair. Ofqual has said they would like to reassure students that the grades they will get will look the same as they have for students in previous years, and these grades will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, so that students can move forward with their future steps as they have planned.

Students will get their final calculated grades in the summer. Ofqual has said that results will be announced no later than the planned results days in August (13th August for Year 13 students and 20th August for Year 11 students), but they are aiming to be able to provide grades earlier than this. They, like us, know that the sooner students know their grades, the better. We will let you know as soon as we have any confirmation of the dates on which grades will be announced.



There will be an appeal process for students who feel that the calculated grades they are awarded by Ofqual do not reflect the grade they would have achieved had they sat the exams. Ofqual have also said that there will be an opportunity for these students to sit exams in the Autumn Term as part of the appeals process. More information on these processes will follow from Ofqual, and we will keep you updated as soon as we hear anything. Likewise, we will let you know as soon as we have more information about how BTEC and other vocational grades will be awarded, as this has not yet been confirmed by Ofqual.

These are unusual times for us all, and I appreciate that many questions remain. However, I hope that this letter provides some level of clarity about how the process will work this summer for awarding exam grades. Please be assured that we are working hard to keep you informed and to support students in moving forward. If you have any questions, please use the info@ashingtonacademy.co.uk email address to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Y Weston
Head of School

