

8 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Trust response to Ofqual guidance regarding awarding Summer 2020 GCSE grades

Since the announcement that GCSE examinations have been cancelled, we understand that the past few weeks will have been unsettling for you and your child. On Friday 3 April Ofqual provided guidance to schools on how grades will be awarded this summer with an overarching aim to be fair to students and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, apprenticeships, training or employment as a result of these unprecedented conditions.

The school has been asked to send the exam board two pieces of information for each GCSE subject studied by your son / daughter:

1. **A fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe students were most likely to receive if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned:** Teachers will consider a range of evidence including classwork and homework, results in assignments and any mock exams, any non-exam assessment or coursework completed to date, as well as a student's general progress throughout the course.
2. **A rank order of students within each grade boundary:** This information will be used by Ofqual and the exam boards to standardise grades across all schools and colleges nationally. This is to ensure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others, when making those judgements. **This means the final grade students receive could be different from the one their school sends to the exam board.**

Please note that the school is not permitted to share the information provided to exam boards with students or parents/carers, as instructed by the Department for Education.

Guidance is currently only available for GCSE grade 9-1 qualifications. A decision and announcement on vocational and BTEC qualifications is expected from Ofqual later this week which will be shared after the Easter break.

The process to produce final grades will start after schools submit their final grades by 29 May 2020. It hopes to publish the final grades on or before the usual mid-August results season. There will be a clear appeals process and students who prefer to sit an exam for certain qualifications will also have the opportunity to do so later in the year.

I appreciate that this guidance may not answer all the questions you may have at this stage; however it does give us a clear process for moving forward. We will be working hard to ensure that students are awarded grades accurately and fairly within this framework.

We hope that you and your family are staying safe during these unprecedented times. School remains open for the provision of childcare for keyworkers and staff are working throughout the Easter break. If you have any questions regarding the process outlined above please email hello@gps.hlt.academy in the first instance so that your query can be directed appropriately.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Welsh
Principal