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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

The Government and Ofqual have issued statements today to offer clarity over the awarding of grades for GCSE, AS and A-Level examinations this summer. This guidance does not apply to BTEC or other vocational qualifications:

Since the Secretary of State announced that the 2020 exam series in England would be cancelled to help fight the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Ofqual has developed a process which will fairly recognise students' work and make sure they get their grades in time to progress. Ofqual has today set out how GCSEs, AS and A-Levels will be awarded this summer and published further guidance for education staff, students, parents and carers.

For this summer's awards, schools and colleges are being asked to provide centre assessment grades for their students. These should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades schools and colleges believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams and should take into account the full range of available evidence.

Information on other Ofqual-regulated qualifications, including vocational and technical qualifications, will be provided separately.

I have provided a link for you to access the following documents:

- [Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)
- [Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)
- [Letter to students - Summer 2020 grading \(this can also be found at the end of this letter\)](#)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

A point to note is this:

*Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. The final grades for some or all students could be different from those submitted.*

All of our staff will be working very hard and using all of the evidence that we have gathered over the time taken to study courses to ensure that we provide the most accurate information for the examination boards about all our students.



In the meantime, please ensure that you and your family continue to stick to the guidance provided by the government regarding Covid-19 and try to enjoy a Happy Easter.

Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Yours sincerely,



S P Ascroft  
Headteacher

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## APPENDIX - LETTER TO STUDENTS SUMMER 2020 GRADING

# ofqual

### A message for all GCSE, AS and A-Level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

#### **How will grades be calculated?**

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure 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. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

#### **Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?**

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

**Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?**

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

**I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?**

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to take an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

**When will I get my results?**

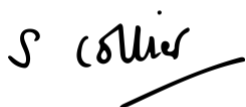
We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

**Can I take my exams another time?**

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A-Levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in Maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website. Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,



**Sally Collier**  
Chief Regulator, Ofqual