

6th May 2020

Dear Year 10 Student, Parent and Carer

Ofqual decision on Year 10 examinations

Following my letter to you on 21st April 2020, I promised to keep you updated on Ofqual's (the regulator for examinations) consultation regarding Year 10 examinations being awarded this summer.

You will recall that in my last letter, I let you know that Ofqual had launched a consultation on whether students entered for exams in Year 10 or below should receive a calculated grade this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consultation has ended and Ofqual has decided that, for students in Year 10, qualifications entered this year will be awarded in the same way as Year 11 qualifications are going to be. This means that they will be given a calculated grade and will not need to sit any examinations for these subjects. I would like to give you some details as to how this will work.

Teachers will provide assessed grades for students in each subject they are entered for this year. These will be based on what the teacher believed each student would have achieved had they sat exams this summer. They will base their assessment on classwork (including performances for PE, music, drama), mock examinations, assignments and previous exam results, where appropriate.

It's important for you to know that students will not be asked for any additional homework or mock exams to inform these grades.

It is also important to let you know that Ofqual have told us that the grades schools submit need to be confidential and teachers will not be allowed to share these grades with students. Therefore, please do not ask us for these grades. We have been asked to send them directly to Ofqual in June.

Ofqual will then look at all the grades and decide what the final grades for each student in each subject should be. They will make sure grades are fair and they will use a range of information to do this.

Students will get their final grades in the summer. Ofqual has said that results will be released on results day, Thursday 20th August 2020, as originally planned.

When the grades are issued, if you think that the grade doesn't reflect accurately what you would have been awarded, you can appeal the decision in certain circumstances. Ofqual has also said that they are working with exam boards so that there is an opportunity, if possible, for students to sit exams, if they would like to later this calendar year, after schools return. More information on that will follow, and I will share that when it is available from Ofqual.

Ofqual stated during the consultation: "...results awarded this summer or autumn for those pupils in year 10 or below will not be included in performance tables in 2021." To be clear, this does not mean that results would be invalid for students but it does mean that, as things currently stand, the results will not contribute to the academy's performance data, meaning that the academy's published data in 2021 will be incorrect. As I said in my last letter to you, we will of course, do what is in the best interests of your child, regardless of the performance tables.

We are continuing to work hard on our curriculum planning for next year to ensure that our current Year 10 students get the best possible qualifications. This is our priority. We will keep you updated with any decisions we are making.

If you have any questions, please use the 'Contact Us' page on the academy website to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Darren Smith
Principal

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