

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe. I want to update you with any news about year 13 students, including the progress we are making in setting Centre Assessed Grades and what support your daughter/son will have over the coming weeks.

Centre Assessed Grades:

As you already know, schools are in the very unusual position of setting each student a Centre Assessed Grade because they will not sit exams this year. This is not difficult, in that we know our students very well and have a lot of data and other information that we can draw upon to establish the grades, including year 12 exams and these also provide us with invaluable information as to what each student is likely to achieve overall. We have now started this process and I want to reassure you that it is extremely thorough and each grade will be closely scrutinised by the teacher, the head of department and by the senior team as a whole. The exam board has issued very detailed and specific instructions to schools and are very clear about the conditions under which grades will be awarded. The exam board will undertake its own moderation and scrutiny when analysing the grades schools enter. I will keep you updated, but as you may be aware exam boards have instructed schools that under no circumstances should any potential grades be discussed with any person outside the school. It is also important to remember that it is the exam board, not the school, who will validate and agree the grades, so until August, when we receive the outcome from the board, all grades will be provisional.

Vocational Subjects:

Until now, we did not have information about how grades for vocational subjects will be awarded, but following guidance from Pearson, we are now in a position to update you on the arrangements for certification. BTECs are made up of units that combine to give an overall grade. For year 13, the units they completed before 20th March (when the school building closed) will be graded as normal, and the ones they did not complete by 20th March will receive a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG). This is the same process as the A Level qualifications. If your daughter took subjects at other schools or another provision, we will be working with them to agree the grades.

Results day:

As I said earlier, schools will receive the overall school results from the exam board later this summer, when they will be awarded to students. We do not, as yet, know how results day will be organised, but I would like the occasion to be as close to normal as possible. I will keep in touch with you and the students about this and let you know when we are in a position to think about how students will collect and celebrate their results.

May- September:

This is a very strange time for year 13 in particular, and although some will understandably feel relief at not sitting exams, this period of time is far from stress free for a lot of them. Many are feeling cheated by the fact that they are not going to experience the post-exam high. I want to reassure them that we have not gone away and are here to talk to them at any point. Mr Szura, Mrs Breen and the year 13 form tutors are keeping in touch on a regular basis. For those students who will start university in the autumn, they are completing their UCAS applications and replying to offers. Once they have confirmed their decisions, and towards the middle of June when exams would have been coming to an end, each student will have a one-to-one call from Mr Szura or Mrs Breen to talk about next year and the next steps. Other students will be able to talk about their choices and their pathways. What is important, is that we will be making regular contact between now and September and advising them all the way. They will be our students until they are in university or on their chosen pathway and we will be here to support them throughout.

I hope you all have a good Bank Holiday weekend. Staff are here if you need to discuss anything with us. I send my very warmest wishes and hope you all stay safe and well.

Kindest regards,
Mrs Harding