

30th March 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

End of Year 13 Examinations and Assessments

Following the Government announcement on school closures and the cancellation of summer exams last week, we have been awaiting further details from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual about examinations and how GCSE/A level courses will be certified and graded this year. At present, the following information has been released which can be read in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>.

The Process

It is likely that schools and teachers will be asked for a judgement about the grade that they believe a student **would have received** had their examinations gone ahead. Student mock examination grades will only be part of the evidence required, as previous tracking point data, as well as non-exam assessments will be taken into account when making this judgement. The exam boards will then consider this alongside other relevant data, including prior attainment (GCSE outcomes for Year 13 students). will then be issued with a calculated final grade in each subject before the end of July 2020. These results will carry the same weight as in any other year and will look the same as any other set of grades awarded to students in past years.

Ofqual and the exam boards will contact schools directly to provide clear guidance on how schools and teachers can evidence judgements to ensure they are fair and robust. Ofqual will also ensure the distribution of grades nationally follows a similar pattern to that of previous years, so that students are not disadvantaged by these extraordinary circumstances.

The DfE has also stated that there may be an opportunity for students to sit subject examinations in the next academic year, if they believe the calculated grade is not representative of their performance. Students will also have a right to appeal with examination boards if they do not believe the correct process has been followed.

Guidance for Students

Although summer examinations have been cancelled, it is really important that students continue working hard in all subjects to ensure they are able to achieve their potential. The digital online learning and assessments set by subject staff will contribute towards teacher final grade judgements. Teachers will be providing regular online learning and assessments including practise exam questions that need to be submitted for marking and assessment. Please support us in ensuring students continue to engage in all work that is set, in particular, the completion of BTEC coursework and any outstanding coursework as a priority, as we may need as much evidence of progress, improvement and achievement as possible up until the summer.

UCAS will have already been in contact with students stating that this year's cohort will not be disadvantaged for places and will be provided regular updates with regards to admissions this September 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team should you have any questions regarding this.

It is important to highlight that the Government has made clear that students' destinations will not be affected by the current situation. Students who are applying for jobs and apprenticeships, please know we will be with you every step of the way. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require additional guidance at <https://www.bromptonacademy.org.uk/contact-us> or <https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/contact>.

We appreciate that there are still many questions, which are unanswered at this stage, but we feel it is important to keep parent, carers and students updated as information becomes available. We will keep you regularly updated once we have confirmation, information and plans from the Department for Education regarding course completion and certification this year.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Kind regards,

Emma Perkin - Vice Principal

Seb Januszewski - Assistant Principal

UKAT Sixth Form Team