



The Priory School

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26th March 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers in Year 11,

We have now received advice on the process of creating 'calculated' grades. All the information (released thus far), is shared on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>.

However, I hope the following provides an appropriate summary.

- Ofqual (the government department that regulates exams, assessments and tests) will establish the process to provide a calculated grade, working with exam boards to ensure the process is consistently applied for all students.
- The exam boards will ask teachers to submit their opinion about the most likely grade the students would have achieved. This will indeed be down to personal opinion, and will draw on a range of evidence:-
 - Mock exams results
 - Non-examined assessment (NEA)
 - Performance in the classroom (general attitude to work) and on other assessments.

We expect to receive clear guidance in due course, in order to do this fairly and robustly.

- The exam boards will combine this (most likely) grade with other 'relevant data – including prior attainment' (at Key stage 2, when our young people were aged 11) – this is the only data set mentioned. I am not sure how much weight can be put to this piece of data, for a number of reasons, not least that some of our students do not have this data to their name because they did not take SATs.
- At this stage, I cannot conclude the relative level of weighting for the information that will be used (and I am not in a position to be confident that this detail will ever be shared). We will be as positive and as fair as possible to our students.
- The distribution of grades is intended to show a 'similar pattern' to previous grades. This means Ofqual will ensure the number (percentage) of grades 1 through to 9 will be similar to previous years.
- The information is expected to be shared, probably through exam boards producing paper confirmation (as per the usual way that exam results are communicated), by the end of July.
- If it is felt that a grade awarded is incorrect, there will be an opportunity for appeal, which is an appeal against the correct process being followed.
- Also, if it is felt the grade does not reflect the likely performance of a student, it is anticipated there will be an opportunity to sit an exam, once schools are open again. I would anticipate this being communicated well in advance, to enable revision for that exam, to receive a published time-table and possibly be asked to use The Priory School as a centre (which we will want to do). Students may also wish to sit their exams in Summer 2021,

although using The Priory School at that point may be difficult, given we will have another year group sitting GCSEs.

- There are some vocational and technical qualifications to be awarded, and Ofqual will be working with them to explore how best to achieve a consistent and fair approach to grade awarding for all students facing this challenge.

When we have further detail to share, I will be in touch with you again.

We have had some questions about work set on Show My Homework in terms of whether we expect Year 11 students to access it. I hope the following helps:-

- In terms of grade predictions, we need no further evidence to make those predictions.
- I advised Year 11 students that whilst exams are not taking place this summer (and assuming education re-commences for them in September) the learning and experience they have gained throughout their time here has equipped them with both skills and knowledge. Also, grade expectations for post 16 pathways are used to ensure a minimum standard of depth and breadth (for the individual pathways), so that the student is able to access their particular route with a degree of confidence (based on achieving those offer grades). For both of these reasons, it would be sensible to keep 'ticking over.'
- If exams are offered in the autumn (and it appears it will be the individual's choice to do them) then dipping regularly into past papers and individual topics will make the revision process (in the Autumn) a little easier.
- Show My Homework resources are available for Year 11 to use as they wish to, and also provide a structure for parents and carers to support the young people in their work. Here again, it is down to the individual family's choice as to whether they wish to access these.
- Revision guides in themselves also provide a very useful and indeed timely resource in this respect.
- The resources are therefore available if Year 11 students wish to access them – we have no further expectations for them to submit work, rather we wish Show My Homework to enable them to stay in touch with their learning.

Finally, I asked Year 11 tutors for the list of institutions where our students hope to access their post 16 choice in September. I will, in due course, write to the leaders of those institutions to establish how best I will be able to support our Year 11 students in gaining access to their post 16 pathways.

Stay well and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



M J Barratt
Principal, The Priory School