

20th March 2020

Dear student

I hope that you and your family are well.

The purpose of my email is to give you an update on the government's plans regarding how final grades will be determined. This will apply to you if you are studying level 2 courses, if you are in the final year of A Level or level 3 Applied course, or if you are a first year who is doing a qualification such as core maths.

The key points of the advice are as follows:

- Students will be awarded a grade based on teacher judgments which teachers will make based on a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Teachers will have to follow DfE/Ofqual rules in doing this – although these have yet to be published. The exam boards will also consider prior attainment. The precise process will be decided soon and communicated as soon as possible.
- Grades will be available hopefully by the end of July.
- The grades will have a similar distribution as in previous years.
- There will be an appeal process, although again the procedure has not yet been confirmed.
- Applied or vocational courses are likely to use work has already been completed and assessed, as well as any further work that your teacher may set you, to decide the grade you will be awarded.
- Students will be able to sit exams early next academic year if they wish to achieve a higher grade than that awarded (or in summer 2021)

The full details of the guidance can be found via this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Some teachers have told me today that students have been in touch asking them to award them particular grades. I do understand that you will be anxious about this situation, particularly so where you are worried that any process may not accurately recognize that progress you have made during your studies but **please be aware that you must not do this**. The teachers will follow the DfE/Ofqual rules and if it was concluded that a student was attempting to influence this process then they (and possibly the teacher) could face sanction.

It is really important that you stay focused on your studies until the end of your course(s) and that you complete any further work set by your teacher as I expect that this is evidence they can use, along with mocks, previous assignments and the like, to form your grade.

I will be in touch as soon as I have further clarification.

Best wishes

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