

6th April 2020

Dear Student, Parent or Guardian

The following information is relevant to students who are completing GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths.

Ofqual's detailed guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers can be found by following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf

As it states, we will have a lot of work to do in order to prepare the information that Ofqual requires and consequently I need to ask teachers to prioritise this in the relatively brief period between the start of the summer term and the 29th May deadline. As a result I have asked teachers to give students the opportunity to complete their specification but not to set any new work that requires marking. We want to give our students the best opportunity to demonstrate good progress and, therefore, teachers will take in and mark work that has already been set. Students should complete this work unless teachers tell them otherwise.

Teachers will be required to grade and rank students based on their 'professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe the student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year'. This will take account of a full range of evidence about student performance across the whole of their course as indicated on page 4 of Ofqual's guidance.

I know some students will be anxious that an individual assessment such as a mock examination may not accurately indicate the grade they would have achieved had they sat their examinations. To make it as fair as possible teachers are required to look at a range of evidence over the whole of the course. As Head of Centre I will oversee this process in line with the guidance Ofqual have provided, ensuring that each subject has an appropriate procedure in place. I'm afraid we are not allowed to correspond or inform you about the grade or ranking and I have instructed teachers not to discuss this with you.

The grades suggested by your teachers will then be subject to a statistical standardisation process conducted by the exam boards and based on national data and results at College in previous years. This could result in grades being increased or decreased to ensure comparability with previous years' results.

The final grades will be released in the summer, possibly a little earlier than originally planned.

The Government has said that there will be an appeals process and the ability to sit the exams in the autumn but as yet we have had no clarity about either of these.

The information published does not as yet include other qualifications such as applied courses although Ofqual have said 'the same aims apply'. As soon as we hear something about the remaining courses I will update you.

Best wishes

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