

17 April 2020

Dear Student and Parent

I hope that you and your family are well and that despite the difficult circumstances you have been able to enjoy your Easter.

I have 3 items of news to inform you of.

1. The DfE has decided that results for GCSEs and A/AS levels will be released on the same dates as originally planned – 20 August and 13 August respectively.
2. On Thursday I received guidance from the DfE to say that they would be instructing Ofqual to oversee a process by which grades would be awarded to students taking applied courses (such as BTEC level 2 and level 3) and Core Maths (See link). They have said that this process will be very similar to that implemented for A level and GCSE whereby teachers are asked to grade and rank all students on a course based on a range of evidence. Ofqual are currently working with examination boards to determine the logistics of this and there are some very difficult and significant issues for them to decide, for example whether Year 1 Level 3 Applied students will be awarded a grade based on this year's work or whether certification of all aspects of the course will happen next year. Nevertheless time is getting very short should there be an expectation that we can meet similar deadlines to that suggested for A level and GCSE (29th May). Consequently I expect detail to be finalised soon and I will inform you as soon as I have it. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/awarding-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-this-summer>
3. Those students who expect to continue next year on the final year of A Level and Level 3 applied courses may have noted the recent media speculation that schools and Colleges may be required to fully reopen before the summer holiday. This speculation has been fuelled by the decisions of governments in countries such as France which are looking to reopen schools and College in mid-May as well as the information which is becoming available regarding the negative economic impact of the lockdown. Please note that any talk of schools and Colleges reopening is speculation. I have received no official information or notification on this issue, and as soon as I do I will share it with you.

To avoid confusion I thought it might be useful to give a brief reminder of the expectations regarding student's work and grades for the different programme types.

GCSE & Year 2 A Level: Grade and ranking to be submitted to the exam boards by teachers (deadline 29th May). Students should complete any remaining work to cover the specification but no **new** assignments will be set

Level 2 Applied, Level 3 Applied Year 2, Core Maths: Grade and ranking to be submitted to the exam board by teachers – details to be confirmed. Students should complete any remaining work to cover the specification but no **new** assignments will be set

Year 1 A level and Year 1 Level 3 Applied: Students must continue to complete work set by their teachers in order to complete the first year specifications, to prepare for year two of your studies and to complete assignments which inform students' predicted grades used for application to universities, employers and apprenticeships. We will ensure that end of year

exams (where appropriate) take place to inform these predicted grades and also to ensure we make sensible decisions about progression onto year 2 courses. Our aim is that these **Year 1 exams will occur in the week beginning June 1st**. As we don't know whether College will have reopened by then your teachers will confirm arrangements and in particular whether you will sit the exam at College or at home nearer this date. Please make sure you are aware of what you need to revise and prepare for these assessments and ask your teacher if you aren't sure.

Best wishes

Ed Senior