



Monday 6th April 2020

Dear Y11/Y13 students and parents,

Awarding of grades for A-levels and GCSEs in 2020

The last few weeks have been difficult for all of us but have been particularly hard for our Y11 and Y13 students whose exams have been cancelled and who have been living with a significant degree of uncertainty over their grades and progression to the next phase of their education. I wanted to thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

On Friday 3rd April Ofqual, who regulate the examination system, published guidance on the awarding process to all schools and parents. It can be read in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

I wanted to update you on how we are intending on running that process at APA so that we can be as transparent as possible:

- I have asked Heads of Department to provide me with a predicted grade for every GCSE and A-level exam entry. I have asked them to use the predicted grades that were given after the last set of mock exams as the basis for that prediction and to use work submitted up until the end of April to modify their grade. No child should be disadvantaged by being unable to complete work set at home so it is essential that you inform Miss Bingham (for GCSEs) and Mr Duffy (for A-levels) if, for whatever reason, your child is **unable** to complete work away from school.
- I have also asked Heads of Department to provide a ranking of all students within a grade bracket. This will ensure that exam boards, who will standardise grades across schools, can make sure that results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because an individual department is more generous or harsh than others when making judgements.
- That means the final grade students get could be different from the one sent to the exam board. Please be aware that the grades that we submit to the exam boards will be confidential and we are unable to share them with students or with parents. Please do not embarrass staff by asking them as they will have to refuse.
- We are awaiting confirmation of when results will be published for both GCSEs and A-levels but we expect them to be on or around their original dates of 13th August (for A-level) and 20th August (for GCSE). As ever, I would urge students and parents to be in the country at that time to give students the best possible chances of securing a place in their chosen institution.





- Please note that arrangements for BTECs (Enterprise and Sport at Y11 and Business at Y13) are somewhat different as students will be assessed as normal on the units they have completed. It is essential that students continue to work on their assignments. All assignments should be submitted and finalised by the end of April.

At the end of April we will move from revising exam content to preparing students for the increasing demands of the next stage of their education through extended independent research projects. All students will be expected to complete these and they will form part of the assessment process for entry to the sixth form. We will be writing to you in more detail about these towards the end of the month.

I am hoping that we will still be able to have a much-deserved send-off for our Y11 and Y13 students. We will be in touch to arrange these when the situation becomes clearer.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Neuberger

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