

Aspire | Commit | Succeed

21 March 2020

Dear Year 13 Parent/Carer,

I hope this email finds you well. The Government has provided more information about the cancellation of the summer examinations. You can read the information [here](#).

Key Points:

- summer 2020 examinations have been cancelled by the Government to allow schools to focus on supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- "calculated grades" will be given to students using a "range of evidence" e.g. non-exam assessment, mock (PPE) results, controlled assessments and completed exam modules
- calculated grades will be "standardised" between schools and colleges
- calculated grades will take teacher assessment and prior attainment (GCSE results) into consideration
- the way grades will be calculated has not been established yet. If the school is asked for a predicted grade there is no guarantee this will become the calculated grade
- students will be able to appeal the calculated grade (details on this are unclear)
- students who are unhappy with the calculated grade will have the opportunity to sit an exam after schools reopen. Universities are expected to show flexibility to ensure that such students are able to begin their course with a delayed start time.
- students will also have the option to sit examinations in summer 2021
- the grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers
- the university admissions cycle is expected to go ahead as normal
- an unconditional offer means you have already met the entry requirements, so the place is available if it is wanted

Uncertainties:

- there are many uncertainties in the latest round of information e.g. the way in which grades are calculated, the reasons for an appeal, when exams will take place when schools reopen. We have also heard rumours that universities are considering entrance examinations

Recommended Action:

- given the uncertainties about the current situation we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that your child continues to study as they may need to sit an examination when the school reopens in order to improve on the "calculated grade" they have been allocated
- we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that your child attends **ALL ONLINE LESSONS** on google classrooms from Monday morning at 8:50am onwards

- we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that your child keeps hold of all their work including essays, assignments, PPEs, controlled assessments which they may need to use as evidence of the standard of work
- we **RECOMMEND** that your child keeps a log of disruption to their learning which might include, but is not limited to, periods of self-isolation, disruptive teacher absences, dates of school closures and what alternatives have been provided e.g. google classrooms.
- please **DO NOT** ask teachers for predicted grades. All teachers have been told they must not pass predicted grades to students

Finally:

I fully understand that this is a very difficult time for families which may cause confusion and anxiety. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to provide all the answers, but please do not hesitate to contact any of the sixth form team, Ms Zaraat, Ms Bailey, Ms Hirani, Ms Maan, your child's Form Tutor for guidance or if you have concerns about your own or another students welfare or wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna