

6 April 2020

Dear Parents of Year 11, 12 and 13 students,

2020 GCSE, AS Levels, A Levels and EPQ Examinations

I am writing to inform you that we have received further information about the way in which grades will be awarded for GCSEs, A Levels, AS Levels and EPQs in 2020. The same aims will also apply to vocational and technical qualifications. Full details of the communication from Ofqual can be found [here](#).

Teachers have been asked to provide a centre assessment grade for all their students. These grades should be a “fair, objective and carefully considered judgement of the grades teachers believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams”.

The grades will take into account the full range of available evidence including: classwork; bookwork; any participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama or PE; any non-exam assessment – whether or not complete; the results of any assignments or mock exams; previous examination results; and any other records of student performance over the course of study.

Teachers have also been asked to provide a rank order of students within each grade. The deadline for submitting this information to exam boards is no earlier than 29 May 2020.

Following submission of grades to the exam board, there will be a process of standardisation using a model being developed by Ofqual. This means that the final grades for some or all students could be different from those submitted by teachers.

We have also been told we must not share the centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid anyone feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by evidence.

The results will be available by the normal dates in August. There is still the opportunity for an appeal; however, the grounds are likely to be very limited. Students will also have the opportunity to sit exams at the earliest reasonable opportunity in the new academic year. Details on these examinations are still unclear.

I fully understand that this is a very difficult time for students which may cause confusion and anxiety; however, we are fully aware of the tremendous work our students have put into their studies and will do everything possible to ensure students are appropriately rewarded.

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Over the Easter break we will consult with teachers about the best time to conclude online studying. I am sure you will appreciate that this is a particularly difficult decision as we need to ensure the curriculum has been covered in all subjects and many students will want to continue to study to prepare for retake examinations which will be offered when the school reopens.

A reminder that you should not hesitate to contact Ms Zaraat, Ms Rufo, Ms Maan, Ms Bailey or your Form Tutors for guidance or if you have concerns about your own or another students welfare or wellbeing. Staff will also be available on safeguarding@alperton.brent.sch.uk.

Finally, I have also attached a letter to students from Sally Collier, the Chief Regulator of Ofqual.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna
Headteacher

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RENAISSANCE
Champion School



A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when

making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new

information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Sally Collier

Chief Regulator, Ofqual