

Friday 20th March 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Further details on exams and grades announced

Today the exam regulator, Ofqual, have made an announcement on how student grades will be determined with the cancellation of exams this summer, following government actions to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Ofqual and exam boards have said they will work with teachers to provide students with these grades.

For our Sixth Form students in year 13 intending to go to University, they confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

The government stated that their priority is to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

The statement released today explains; 'this means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.'

They go on to say; 'To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.'

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. They will then finalise the approach required by schools and will contact our Academy. We will then share more information with you as soon as possible.



Ofqual are aiming to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. Ofqual will ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances. This means that similar proportions of students will be awarded grade 7s and grade 5s in each subject compared to previous years.

Our students will feel anxious and uncertain but the Education Secretary aims to ensure that the hard work and dedication of students is rewarded and fairly recognised.

Staff at Bosworth recognise that the majority of our students feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. The statement today explains that if students or parents do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Ofqual stated there could be an option to sit exams in summer 2021.

As I am sure it is obvious, to date we have not had the information required from Ofqual to answer any questions about the processes outlined in this statement or how it would be managed at school level, least of all knowing when schools will reopen. We await more news, and as always will share this with you as soon as we know. For students progressing to the next stage in their education it is important that their studies continue.

We will write to you again early next week with recommendations about what our year 11 and 13 students should be doing following this announcement during this closure period. Over the weekend and start of the week we recommend that students continue to follow their revision plans.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Brown
Head of School

Kathleen Baxter
Deputy Head of School

Ben White
Deputy Head of School