



23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Year 11 and Year 13 external examination grades – Update**

The government has now published further information on the cancellation of external examinations. This information is available here: [cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#)

The information confirms that exam boards will not be issuing any examination papers this summer, for any subject, including vocational and technical qualifications. Even if the impact of COVID-19 is not as bad as expected, the government has confirmed that this decision will not change.

#### **How will grades be calculated?**

The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide 'calculated grades' to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.

The final grade awarded will not necessarily reflect a student's predicted grade or their mock result. This is because the calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence, which may include, for example:

- Non-exam assessment e.g. coursework and mock results
- The subject teacher's up to date assessment of the likely grade (not necessarily the last prediction made by the teacher)
- A student's prior attainment
- Consideration of how much progress a student at Prince Henry's usually makes

A very small number of students will need to complete an assignment for their BTEC course. If your child is affected, you (and your son or daughter) will be notified separately about this.

The full details of the approach have not yet been finalised, so the range of evidence used may be different to that listed above. The final process will be standardised between schools and colleges to make it as fair as possible. The final grade will be decided by the exam board and Ofqual. Therefore, individual staff will not respond to queries from students or parents about an individual student's predicted grade.

#### **What if a student is unhappy with the grade awarded?**

If a student does 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, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

#### **Year 13 students holding university offers**

The main university representative body, Universities UK, have said that universities will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to university. The government has said that the grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in previous years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers.

This means that there is no reason for the usual university admissions cycle to be disrupted. Year 13 students should feel no pressure to accept unconditional offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each exam they would have taken.

### **Distance Learning for Year 11 and Year 13**

Teachers have been asked to continue to set work for Year 11 and Year 13 up to and including the usual leaving date of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. It is important for students to continue learning in each of their subjects so that:

- They minimise any 'gaps' in knowledge that may hinder their achievement in future college courses, sixth form courses, university courses or work.
- They are better prepared if they decide to take the option to sit an exam in the subject later in the year
- They have the same opportunity as students in previous years, to learn and gain knowledge and understanding that will benefit them in later life

### **School textbooks and other resources**

Please ensure that your son or daughter keeps school resources, including textbooks, so that they can be returned to school later in the year.

I wish you and your family the best over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully



**Ms Janet Sheriff**  
**Executive Headteacher**