

PAST/HOL/POS
20 April 2020

Dear Parent/ Carers

I hope you and your families are all healthy and well. Following my letter to you on Friday 3rd April outlining the OFQUAL (the regulatory body for examinations) information, I would like to share a little more information with you. I hope you found the previous OFQUAL guidance informative.

Some key points from the wider guidance included:

“How will centre assessments work”

We are asking schools to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. It is important that schools take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students – including non-exam assessments; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the period of study. We are also asking schools to provide a rank order of students within each grade boundary. This is because the statistical standardisation process will need more granular information than the grade alone.

“Exam boards will also ask exam centres to generate for each subject, centre assessment grades for their students, and then to rank order the students within each of those grades. The grades submitted must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved.”

“In the interest of fairness to students, judgments made by centres across the country should be consistent. However, it is not feasible in the current circumstances for exam boards to standardise the judgements of all teachers across all subject areas before grades are submitted. So that the final grades awarded are as fair as possible, exam boards will standardise the judgements across different centres once they have been submitted using a statistical methodology, developed in conjunction with OFQUAL”

More detailed information regarding the exams situation can be found on the OFQUAL website. I must stress that following the process of awarding grades in school members of staff are not allowed to disclose the grades to students or parents/carers as these grades may be amended during the standardisation process. We are in the process of planning for our internal collection to ensure this is as robust as it normally is in school. We await further guidance from the examining bodies and the earliest dates that we will have to submit grades and rank ordering to the boards is 29th May 2020. Therefore, we have time to ensure the process is fair and robust.

Please note that the final grade awarded may not be the same as the submitted grade by the school.

I will communicate with you again when appropriate as we move through this process but rest assured we will work hard to ensure that this situation is as fair and equitable as it can be.

Kind Regards



D Postlethwaite
Acting Headteacher