

Subject line: Information for Y11 and Y13 students and their parents regarding GCSEs and A levels.

Dear parents,

I hope you and your family are well, and that you are adapting to the changes in the way we must now live our lives at the moment. These are difficult times and I am aware that coping with the implications of the current pandemic presents families with particular challenges.

We have received this advice from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) regarding plans for the awarding of GCSE and A level grades.

[Further details from the government on arrangements for exams \(and grades\) which have been cancelled to fight spread of coronavirus](#)

This link provides some more information:

Coronavirus (COVID-19): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A ...

While this gives us more clarity about the government's plans, there are still questions about how this will work in practice. We have been told that:

'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.'

We have not yet received this information from Ofqual (the exams regulator), but we will be in contact with you as soon as we have further details.

In addition, we have been told:

To produce this (grade), 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.

Once again, we have not yet received this guidance.

Finally, and again this relates to how schools will calculate students' grades, we have been told the following:

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

We do not yet have this information.

My advice to students in Years Eleven and Thirteen is to carry on studying, and to keep their minds active in preparation for their future education pathways. As soon as we have further information we will be in touch.

With best wishes

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