



Horsforth School

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Our ref: ZMC/ KE

Date: 22/3/2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

On Friday evening more information came to light regarding this year's GCSE and A level examinations and I therefore wanted to keep you updated. The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards have said that they will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer, following the government's actions to slow the spread of coronavirus.

University representatives have 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 have said that their priority is now 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. 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 have said that they 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.

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 over the coming weeks. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including SATs scores, 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.

The government's aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July and they have said that they recognise that some students may feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. 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. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

With all of this information now available, it is vital that the Year 11 and 13 students continue working on any coursework or ongoing assessments to provide evidence for the exam boards; as well as continuing to work through the work that is being set on the online learning platform. All of this will be used to verify the grades that we will submit to the exam boards.

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Once again I thank you for your ongoing support and if you have any concerns or queries don't hesitate to contact me via the info@horsforthschool.org email address.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Z Comiskey

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Z. M. Comiskey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Progress)