

## Exam update 20.4.20 - Information for Parents and Students

Dear all,

We have received advice from the DFE and Ofqual with regards to vocational courses. **The advice is that most Vocational courses will be awarded a grade in the summer in a similar way to A levels and GCSEs.**

This involves your teacher making a centre assessed grade which will be confidential (ie not available to parents/carers or students). This grade will then be moderated by exam boards to produce a final grade.

Therefore, the advice to students on BTEC Vocational courses is as follows.

**1. If you are a year 1 student:** carry on as normal completing online tasks set by your teacher.

**2. If you are a year 2 or level 2 student:** you do not need to complete your coursework in order to get a centre assessed grade. However, you may wish to complete for your own sense of achievement/purpose/mental health - you and your teacher may need to discuss what is appropriate for you.

For students doing CTEC Diploma in Media Nik Bailey will be contacting you.  
For Cache students Helen will be in contact.

**For A level and GCSE courses** the situation remains the same.

- Exam boards 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 to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- 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 be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. **Work produced since the lockdown (20th March) will not be used to determine this grade**
- 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.

- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students on the previously published results day i.e. 13th August for A Level/Level 3 courses; 20th August for GCSE/Level 2 courses
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- Exam boards also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer

#### **For all courses**

**Just to let you know that the teacher's predictions form only a part of your final grade but not all of it. In the meantime, please do not contact your teacher regarding your predicted grades.**

**As ordered by the government the predicted grades will remain confidential and not passed on to students or parents/carers.**

We appreciate that the current situation may generate some anxiety as regards to exams and grades. Please be assured that we will keep you up to date as we receive more guidance. The staff in the college will also do the right thing to make sure that you get the grades you have worked so hard for and deserve.

Wishing you all the very best,

The Senior Leadership Team