



26th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

GCSE/A Level Qualifications

I am writing to update you on developments regarding the awarding of GCSE and A Level qualifications this year.

As it stands we have received no further guidance to that shared with schools last week; this was that qualifications would be awarded based on a combination of factors including data from schools. There is also a proposal that students will be able to appeal against the grade that they are awarded and sit examinations at some point in the future if they choose to do so. I am aware that this announcement has raised as many questions as it has provided answers. A number of parents have contacted the school to ask about predicted grades in particular and to what extent these will influence the GCSE and A Level grades that are awarded this year. I am afraid that, at present, we do not have answers to these questions and any attempt from the school to do so would be speculation at this stage.

We have been informed that there will be further clarification about this year's qualification grading next week and the feedback from the national school leadership associations (who have been involved in the process) is that what is being proposed is sensible. As soon as we know more I will be writing to you about this and the implications of what is proposed for the school in terms of what data will be provided. In the interim could I ask that you do not ask individual teachers at the school about this and ask that your children do the same. Invariably the response from teachers to questions about qualification grades will be that they do not know what will be happening yet. We had planned to publish Year 11 and 13 reports on April 2nd to coincide with the tutor consultation afternoon. In light of the current situation we will delay sending them home until we are clear about the proposed system for awarding grades.

I appreciate the anxiety that this will be causing you and your children and I can reassure you that we will do all that we can to ensure the grades awarded are fair and reflect the efforts made by your children over the previous two years.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Mackay
Headteacher