



20th March 2020

Dear Year 11 and Year 13,

I suspect that you will have read the news from the government about how grades will be determined this summer. I am writing to set out what we know and to give you some clarity as to how this will operate.

It is best to think of the process now in clear steps. They are as follows:

1. Ofqual, the organisation that oversees the examinations process in our country, will set out guidance to schools on how to assess students and determine what grade each individual was likely to achieve. That assessment will be wide-ranging. It will include different types of assessment work that you have undertaken across your course and that we have seen.

I know that some of you are concerned that any grade will be based solely on your mock performance. The government statement specifically states that it will go beyond that and will include a range of evidence and data, and our knowledge of you.

2. When we have that guidance from Ofqual, the school will work to determine the most appropriate grades. We will ask your individual teachers first and then moderate those judgements through the school to make sure that they are as accurate as possible, taking into account everything that we know.
3. When Ofqual have received all of those grades from across all schools, they will then check that those grades are in line with similar grades given to previous year groups. They may adjust some or all of those grades, up or down, depending upon how the grades are distributed nationally.
4. The government statement says that the aim is to give you these grades '**before the end of July.**' That is earlier than normal and is probably designed to give you more time to assess your options after receiving the grades.
5. Once you have those grades, you will have one of four options:
  - a. Accept the grades
  - b. Appeal against the grades
  - c. Take an examination at the start of the next academic year in any subject that you believe you can improve upon
  - d. Take the examinations in the summer of 2021

There will be more information in the coming weeks and we will let you know when that information is sent out. It helps to answer one question that I know many of you have had: you will not be asked to sit exams this summer in any form.

There will still be some anxiety about this process. Until you know your grades, that is inevitable. Perhaps the best reassurance I can give you is that we know you very well. We make it our business not just to mark your work, but to get to know you properly. That means we know those of you who work harder at different points in the year, those who would have been inspired by the exams themselves, those that had made significant steps in the last few days and weeks. We will take all of this into account.

Now that there are no exams, what next? We'll have a think over the weekend and provide you with some suggestions next week as to how best to prepare yourselves for your next step.

Take care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Woodlock'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'M' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

M Woodlock  
Headteacher