



DEYES
HIGH
SCHOOL

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LEARNING TRUST

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Mr P Duffy

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To all our Students of Year 11, 12 & 13,

We wanted to write to you to try and offer some reassurance in relation to your examination grades. We, as a school, are working very closely with all the Examination Boards and Ofqual (the Government's Office of Qualifications and Examinations regulations) to ensure that you achieve your qualifications effectively and fairly.

The government have said that simply using predicted grades or mock exam grades only would not be fair to all students. The calculated grade will take into account your teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as how you have performed throughout your time at school, so that your final grades should be a fair assessment of what you are capable of achieving.

The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example:

- Your teacher's professional predictions of your grades
- Previous exams and tests including your mocks and Key Stage 2 tests
- Existing coursework or assessment work where relevant (e.g. BTEC)
- Additional evidence where necessary

The government have stated that you will receive your examination grades towards the end of July and more information will be forthcoming in the next days and weeks to come. Please also be reassured that your examination certificates will look exactly the same as every other year.

Should you be unhappy with the grades that are awarded, you will have the right to appeal, as students have every year. In addition, you will have opportunities to take the examinations at a later date, once school re-opens.

If you require any further information, the government have published this guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

We have also included a summary of the information provided to use by the examination boards, which you may find helpful.



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ENGAGE, ENABLE,
EMPOWER

We recognise that the academic year has ended abruptly, however we are confident that, with the solid education that you have received to date and the support of your parents/carers, you will resume your education with passion and purpose when your learning journey once again commences. Remember, you have developed not just academic skills, but grown socially and emotionally to be the young, resilient person you are today. We are very proud of you and confident that you will go on to achieve great success in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Duffy
Head of School
Deyes High School

Information from Examination Boards on the Grading of GCSEs, A Levels and Technical Qualifications Summer 2020 (21 March 2020)

AQA Guidance – GCSEs and A Levels

- Regulators 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 us and the other exam boards 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. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- 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.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- We'll 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.

Pearson (Edexcel) Guidance – GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational / Technical Qualifications

We welcome the principles being used for the assessment and believe they will deliver fair outcomes. It's important that professional teacher judgements are taken into account, that a wide range of evidence is used and that there will be a clear appeals process. Students that prefer to sit a paper later in the year will also have the opportunity to do so.

For our BTEC vocational qualifications, we feel confident we can award grades for students finishing this academic year by working closely with teachers to collate completed student grades, taking into account student progress on assignments and course work to date and by sampling and verifying student work. Again, we are working to understand the implications of the current context for BTECs and other applied general qualifications and will communicate with learners as soon as we can.

Eduqas (WJEC) Guidance – GCSEs and A Levels

Qualifications Wales has clearly outlined that teacher assessed grades must be based on the overall qualification grade each learner is likely to achieve at the end of their course of study, based on their performance on a range of classroom and external assessments and on their overall commitment to their studies and ability in the subject. Teacher assessed grades, for this purpose, are not target grades or ambitious grades that learners might aspire to achieve. We will consider the full range of evidence, including teacher assessed grades, and will standardise these across the full cohort, thus leading to a final grade to award to each learner.

OCR Guidance – GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational / Technical Qualifications

GCSEs, AS and A Levels

- With the other exam boards and Ofqual, and together with teachers' representatives, we're going to agree a consistent approach to how grades are calculated.
- We'll ask teachers to tell us the grades students would have got if they had sat exams.
- They can take into account evidence such as mock exams and non-exam assessment.
- We'll then use data, such as prior attainment, to decide on a final calculated grade.

Vocational Qualifications, including Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals

- We'll be working with other boards and with Ofqual, to agree an approach to ensure no students are disadvantaged.
- We'll use the best available evidence, which could include assessments that students have already completed, to confirm final calculated grades.

Your results

- We'll aim to give students calculated grades by the end of July.
- Students should be assured that these grades are indistinguishable from those given in other years.
- Universities have been encouraged 'to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education'.

Further steps

- There will be opportunities to sit exams early in the autumn term, or in summer 2021, if students are not happy that their grade reflects their performance.
- If students don't feel the right process has been followed in their case, there's an option to appeal.