

Dear Bennett Parent

I am writing to you as you are the parent of a student in year 11 who would in normal circumstances have sat GCSE examinations this summer.

Ofqual have published today their guidance regarding how GCSE, AS and A level qualifications will be awarded by the examination board. They have created a helpful guide for students, parents and teachers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

Please do take a moment to read this information.

At this stage, the school really cannot comment on individual cases, but please be assured that we will consider every student as an individual when the time comes to arrive at the grades which the boards will require us to assess, using all of the evidence that is available to us.

As a school, we will now be working hard to use Ofqual's guidance to arrive at the centre assessed grades.

I can assure you that the school will be following the Ofqual guidance in full measure.

The school will continue to provide meaningful work for all of our GCSE examination classes in the coming weeks after the Easter holiday. Teachers will continue to assess and feed back on work undertaken at home during this period up until the end of May, when centre assessments will be completed and submitted to the Boards, and GCSE teaching will end.

All of the destinations that year 11 students may be considering for September will want to be confident that students have the same foundations of knowledge and capability from their GCSEs as the year groups who have gone before them and those who come after. Certainly, the vast majority of students who are holding an offer to study in the Bennett Sixth Form should understand that the school expects them to continue to engage with their GCSE studies right to the end of the course at the end of May and to provide the evidence to their teachers that they have done so.

If the general closure of school remains in place from the beginning of June onwards, then the school will begin to provide induction work for our A level and level 3 courses to all of those holding offers for a place in the school sixth form.

As a school we are very aware of Ofqual's guidance regarding students' work following the general closure of schools and will follow it.

"There is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should

exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done."

We know that there will be lots of uncertainties in students' minds and yours as we undertake this process. However, the guidance to schools is clear that centres **must not** share provisional grades.

"It is important schools and colleges do not share provisional grades, nor rank orders, with students or parents and carers before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgments, and to avoid teachers, Heads of Department or Heads of Centre feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence."

In this context we ask that you are patient with us as we set about this important task

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the very many parents who have sent in messages of support over the past two weeks. It has been a challenging time for everybody involved in education, students, parents and schools but it is as a community that we will overcome these challenges.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Sparke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

Jon Sparke

Headteacher