

Dear Bennett Parent

I am writing to you as you are the parent of a student in year 13 who would in normal circumstances have sat A level examinations or completed Cambridge Technical or BTEC qualifications 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](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 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 A Level teaching will end. Those offering higher education courses or admitting young people to employment will want to be assured that they have the same well stocked minds and capabilities as the year groups who have gone before them and those who come after. To do anything less than this would, in our view, be to serve our students poorly.

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

Where there is a query about the guidance provided by Ofqual to students, parents and teachers, we would ask that you raise that with Mrs Malone, the Director of Sixth Form [malone@bennett.kent.sch.uk](mailto:malone@bennett.kent.sch.uk)

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 the name.

Jon Sparke

Headteacher