

Information about exams for students in Years 10 to 13

As I am sure you are aware, all exams for 2020 have been cancelled. This includes any units which were due to be taken by Year 10 and 12 as well as the GCSE and A level exams for Years 11 and 13. There is not an option to sit exams this summer as papers will not be supplied to schools. Even if the coronavirus (COVID-19) is not as bad as expected, the exams will not be reinstated.

The final grades for GCSE and A levels will now be calculated, taking into account a range of evidence including non-exam assessment, mock results, teacher assessment and prior attainment. The past performance of the school is also likely to be taken into account when devising the calculated grades. Students will not simply be awarded their predicted grades. Exam boards have previously used moderated teacher assessment to award grades to students who cannot sit their exams, for example, those who fall ill immediately before an exam, so this is not a new process. We are unsure, as yet, whether this will include units for Years 10 and 12.

We are also still waiting to receive information about unfinished coursework but we recommend that students use their time wisely and finish it off whilst they are home studying over the next few weeks, in case we are required to submit it as evidence of their work.

Students will be able to appeal in the same way as usual if they feel that their grade has not been calculated correctly and students who do not feel that their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again or possibly in summer 2021. The option to re-sit will not be before the Autumn term.

Universities, colleges and sixth forms should accept these calculated grades in the same way as they would accept grades awarded in any other year. Universities should not begin making new unconditional offers and applicants should feel no pressure to accept such offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each exam they would have taken. If you already have an unconditional offer, you have already met the entry requirements, so the place is yours if you want it.

We understand that students may be disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams. Please remember, if they do not feel that their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to appeal, or to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible. Please tell them to keep studying, just in case they want to do this.