

Dear Parent / Carer

Further guidance on the publication of GCSE and A Level Results Summer 2020

We understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you as a family, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. We have had further information from Ofqual today and we wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide your son/daughter with grades. We have summarised the letter from Ofqual below, the full information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>.

Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure your son/daughter is not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Our school will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your son/daughter's subjects, based on what we know about their work and achievements:

- the grade we believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at Plymstock school, by performance, for each grade.

In calculating the overall grade, staff will consider a range of things like your son/daughter's classwork and homework, their results in assignments and any mock exams, any non-exam assessment or coursework they might have done, and their general progress during your course. This information will allow Ofqual, with exam boards, to standardise grades across all schools, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because schools are more generous or harsh than others. That means the final grade your son/daughter could get may be different from the one our school sends to the exam board.

Does any further work need to be completed to submit a grade?

No. Students won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after Plymstock School was closed. Any incomplete coursework / NEA does not now need to be completed.

Can we see the grades Plymstock School submits?

Ofqual has categorically stated 'No', as this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your son/daughter's teachers, or anyone else at Plymstock School, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed them in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you. Once all grades have been submitted, exam boards will carry out a process, being developed with Ofqual, to statistically standardise the grades between different centres, therefore final grades students achieve could well be higher or lower than those submitted by us.

When will results be published?

Ofqual and the exam boards are working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally, they will be issued a little earlier.

Can exams be taken at another time?

Ofqual are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. They will let the school know about these when possible and we will pass on the information onto you when we receive it.

Please be reassured that the grades your son/daughter get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help them move forward onto the next exciting chapter of their lives.

As always if you require any further information please do not hesitate to email us at school.

Yours faithfully

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