



Star

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great sadness that our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have had their final lessons with us this year. We are deeply disappointed that their academic year has ended so abruptly in this way, and we will greatly miss all of our pupils.

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that there will be no external examinations, including GCSE, AS levels, A levels and vocational qualifications, this year. This news will be devastating, particularly for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who have worked so hard for so long to achieve their qualifications, but cancellation is undoubtedly a decision that has been taken bravely in order to save lives.

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives. This means ensuring that all students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. Earlier today, the Government announced details of how grades will be awarded.

Ofqual and exam boards will work together to provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible and that is consistently applied for all students. Teachers will be asked to provide a judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. These teacher assessments will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment. The exam boards will then moderate teacher assessments by combining this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, to produce a calculated grade for each student.

The Government recognises that some students may feel disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams, or may not be satisfied with the grades they have been awarded. If pupils do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, or do not believe the correct process has been followed, they will have the opportunity to appeal. They will also have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again, which is expected to be in the Autumn Term. Finally, students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

I recognise that this news will be upsetting for you and many of our pupils. I can assure you that we will work with the Government and the relevant agencies to do our utmost to ensure that the process is fair and transparent. We expect further information to be released in the coming weeks about any impact this will have on the transition into the next phases of education and I will write to update you at the appropriate time.

I am very grateful to you for continuing to work in partnership with your child's school, particularly during the current very challenging times. I hope that you and your family stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive