

23rd March 2020

Dear Year 11 and 13 and their Families,

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Summer 2020 Exams

Following the closure of all schools and colleges in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland from Friday 20th March and the cancellation of the 2020 summer examination period assessments, we want to reassure you that all organisations are working together to find a solution that is fair to all students affected.

The latest update from the Department for Education (received Friday 20th March), when the government released further information regarding awarding qualifications in 2020, is;

“All students in England will be awarded a calculated grade for any qualification that they have been entered for.”

The DfE has also said that “The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges” and that “Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers’ representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.”

At present we do not know the details as to how these grades will be calculated but we do know that the DfE has said “We are not awarding students their predicted grades. Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, will develop a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment and prior attainment.”

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July allowing their transition to 6th form, university or employment.

In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. They will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year’s students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

While we await more information from the DfE, Ofqual and the exam boards the best thing that students can be doing is to continue to follow the guidance of your teachers with regard demonstrating your ability, the progress you have made since January and the PPEs and to complete all coursework /

controlled assessment in time for the deadlines you have been set. This work will then help to support and justify the grades we send through to the exam boards.

To access the latest information from key organisations involved please use the links below:

- The Department for Education (DfE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

- Ofqual

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-following-announcement-on-exams-and-grades>

Please be reassured that we are doing all that we can in the best interest of all students and we will continue to update you as and when receive further information.

If you would like to discuss your next steps please contact Mrs Brake our careers advisor who is available to support you. Her email address is bbrake@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

A Hogarth

Mr A Hogarth
Deputy Headteacher