

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: GCSE and A Level Grades

Qualifications Wales, the examination regulator, has written to schools to provide an update on how outcomes for students will be awarded this summer. As it stands, grades for GCSE (Year 11) and A level (Year 13) qualifications will be calculated using a range of evidence. This may include marks for any work completed to date eg. un-timed examination assessments and, for A level, AS outcomes; the scores achieved for non-examined assessments; and standardised teacher assessed grades. However, Qualifications Wales have made clear that they do not plan to issue grades for AS levels and/or for unit assessments taken by year 10.

The Education Minister and Qualifications Wales have been clear that teacher assessed grades will be based on what staff would expect students to achieve at the end of the course. There will be expectation that these professional predictions are fair, reasonable and carefully considered. These judgements will be assessed looking at a range of first hand evidence, rather than a single source of evidence, such as a mock examination outcome. Similarly, target grades will not be used to help establish a grade.

With regard to vocational qualifications, we do not yet have the definitive guidance on this. Schools in Wales are still able to use a range of examination boards to set vocational pathways. Therefore, the process is a little more complicated. We understand that the regulator is still working with the other devolved nations to agree a single-approach.

I appreciate this is an unsettling period for you and your child and want to reassure you that we want the best for every child at school. We will treat all our pupils fairly, although I am certain that Qualifications Wales will undertake a moderation exercise of the grades submitted and, as teachers, we have a professional responsibility to maintain our ethical standards as an examination centre.

As you know, we collect half term data for all year groups, which captures the teachers professional predictions. This information is gathered and analysed and we are therefore highly confident in having a very clear picture of where your child is at in terms of likely outcomes.

I am working closely with Mr Davies (Assistant Headteacher) responsible for data and Mr Francis (Assistant Headteacher) in charge of Years 10-13, all subject leaders and teachers, to complete the evidence as required by the examination board/regulator. You have my assurance that we will continue to work hard to ensure your child receives the grades they deserve.

Yours faithfully



F K Greville
Headteacher