

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well and you are coping with the many challenges that COVID-19 is presenting to us all. Further to my previous update, I can now update you on the how examination grades will be determined for your child this summer.

On Friday, Ofqual along with the DfE released the following information:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877842/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_EPQ\\_AEA\\_in\\_maths\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf)

The DfE have also written to students to explain the situation:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877830/Letter\\_to\\_students\\_-\\_Summer\\_2020\\_grading.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf)

This can be summarised in the following quote:

'Centre assessed grades (school) grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment'. I will explain what this means in more detail below.

The deadline for schools to enter grades is Friday, 29th May. This process has not started yet and will not be taking place over Easter. Easter is for your families, teachers and your child to rest and spend time together.

Below is the guidance I sent to Year 11 and Year 13 students by email on Friday:

### **What information is the school expected to provide?**

For every GCSE, AS and A level subject, exam boards will require our school to submit the following information:

- A centre assessment grade for each student – this is the school's judgement about the grade that each student was most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams. This judgement is reached from evidence held within school. We will use most pieces of work you have ever done - essays, assessments, report grades, mock exams, coursework already completed and which has been reviewed by subject teachers and relevant heads of department. **This grade is not just a current grade, target grade or UCAS grade.**

### **How will school produce these grades?**

- Your performance over the whole course, including for example report grades, classwork, homework, book work, coursework completed, mock exams and/or participation in performances in subjects such as Music, Drama and PE.
- Performance on any non-exam assessment or coursework (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed. We have been told to exercise caution on any work completed by students after 20th March (when schools closed).

This is due to some students possibly being at a disadvantage compared to others in their ability to complete work during this time. You will not be asked to complete any remaining or outstanding coursework.

- Grades should obviously make sense in terms of your tier of entry in a subject (higher or foundation) - this is only in subjects that have a tier of entry.
- The grades you are given by your teachers will then be checked by various other members of staff in school.

### **Can my grade be changed?**

Once your grades are given to the exam boards, they will then be checked in various ways. This may lead to the grade that you are given by the school being changed. The reason for any grades being changed will be so that the grades given to students in the country this year are similar to previous years. The government want to make sure you are not treated more strictly or kindly than previous year groups. This is why the school will not tell you the grade that we have awarded you. We do not want to get your hopes up or disappoint you possibly unnecessarily.

### **What if I am unhappy with the grade I am given?**

You will have the chance to appeal against the grade given to you in the Summer. Details on how this will work have not been released yet. If you appeal or even if you don't appeal then you will be able to sit your GCSE/A-Level exam alongside whatever study you are doing later in the year (when these exams are possible). This is likely to be in Autumn 2020 and/or Summer 2021. If you do sit the exam then both the grade the school gives you and the grade you get in the exam will both stand/count.

### **When will results be released?**

Results to be released by the exam boards no later than the end of August, possibly sooner. To give students the certainty they need.

### **Will I keep getting work set by my teachers?**

Yes. The emphasis of this work will be on covering content you had not finished by the time schools closed or on recovering content you would need to do for doing any future exams. We have to do this to make sure that you have covered all of the subject content to allow you to sit your exam (only if you want to or need to) in Autumn 2020 or Summer 2021. You may not think you want to sit the exam right now, however if you are not happy with your grades or you need different grades to go on to do something else - you may then choose you want to do the exam.

For those of you going on to college or A-Level study, we will be in touch with you regarding some bridging work to help prepare you for these courses. This is likely to be in late May/early June.

### **Finally...**

We want to reiterate that nothing is going to be done with this over the Easter holidays. The exam boards do not want schools to give them any grades for some time. Please ensure you enjoy your Easter holidays as much as is possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to say to all Y11 and Y13 students and their families, how sorry we are that this has happened.

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

SAMWORTH  
CHURCH  
ACADEMY



All we can control is how hard we work to ensure that your child is not disadvantaged educationally. I would like to personally reassure you that the grades we submit to the examinations board will be fair and will reflect everything for which your child has worked so hard.

All of the staff at The Samworth Church Academy would like students to know that we wish them well in whatever they choose to do and that we are very proud of them all. Please be assured the Academy will continue to be there and support your child long after what would have been their usual leaving dates and fully intend to hold our leavers celebrations for Y11 and Y13 students as soon as we are able to do so, which they are so deserving of.

All the very best, take care and stay safe.

*C. Vallance*

Chris Vallance  
Strategic Director for Student Experience