



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

20 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you and your families are safe and well and that our students have enjoyed their Easter break as much as possible under the circumstances.

We wanted to share with you a letter (attached) from Ofqual, which hopefully addresses any questions that you might have about how GCSE and AS/A Level exam results will be awarded this year. Please read this information carefully. You may also wish to watch the below video from Ofqual:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be>

You will see from the information provided by Ofqual that there are essentially two processes. The first is that our teaching staff will use a range of evidence to create a 'predicted grade' based on how a student would have performed had teaching and learning happened as planned. Our teaching staff will be working very closely with each other in the coming days to undertake this process, and ensure that our predictions are robust and fair to every student.

However, it is important to note that this does not mean that these predicted grades will be the actual grades that a student is awarded. The exam boards will look closely at all predictions on a national level, to ensure that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their school is more harsh or generous than others. This may mean adjusting some grades up, or down.

We have also now had confirmation from the Pearson and OCR exam boards that a similar process will be used for their Level 3 (post 16) BTEC and CamTech subjects respectively. Therefore, Year 13 students no longer need to continue to complete work for these subjects. Furthermore, Pearson and OCR have also confirmed that for Year 11 students, the Level 1 & 2 BTEC First awards and Cambridge Nationals will be awarded in a similar way to the GCSE examinations. Therefore, coursework no longer needs to be completed for these subjects.

It goes without saying that we know many students will be thoroughly disappointed that they will not be able to take their formal examinations, and/or complete their coursework units. However, we are confident that the process outlined by Ofqual will be fair, and that students will achieve the grades that they deserve. An appeals process is being put in place by Ofqual if for any reason a student is unhappy with any of their outcomes. We will update you on this process when we have more information.

It is important to note that Ofqual have made it clear that all predictions made by teaching staff are confidential and will not be allowed to be shared with parents, carers or students. We would politely request that teachers are not contacted asking what grades have been predicted, as we will be unable to share this information.

Finally, it has now been confirmed that examination results will be released to students on the following dates:

- A Level (including Btec/CamTech) results day - 13th August 2020
- GCSE results day - 20th August 2020

We do not yet know if these results will be released in the traditional way, whereby students collect them in school, or if alternative arrangements will need to be made. Rest assured that we will support all students in Years 11 and 13 with their progression to employment, apprenticeships or further study. We will update you on these arrangements at our earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the following members of staff in the first instance:

- AS/A Level & BTEC/CamTech queries: Mr Adam Ironside, Head of Sixth Form adam.ironside@svf.org.uk
- GCSE queries: Mr Graham Scott, Head of School graham.scott@svf.org.uk

Yours sincerely



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher