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Dear Year 11 and Parents/Carers

On Friday 3rd April we received further guidance from the exam boards highlighting how they will award examination grades this Summer. The guidance can be found using the link below. Although this is designed for teachers, parents and students, I thought it right to provide you with the whole document.

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

In addition, the following link from Ofqual is designed for Year 11 students:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Some of the key points in this letter from Ofqual are:

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- *the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned*
- *within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade.*

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when GCSE. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

With this guidance in mind, we are now looking in detail at the information required by the exam boards and will be sending this to them in due course.

Many Year 11s and Parents/Carers have asked us whether students should keep working. My advice remains the same, I recommend that you continue to work in the event that you want to sit the Autumn series of exams. This work will be essential if you are not happy with the grades the exam boards award you. However, I think your approach now needs to change and requires some thought and a discussion at home.

I would suggest not revising over Easter and reducing revision to significantly less hours when the term begins. This would not normally be our advice for a set of May/June exams but as any potential exams will now be delayed until September (at the earliest) I have adjusted this advice from our normal approach. Students are no longer ensuring they 'peak' for May/June exams and, if they decide to take the option, will need to 'peak' for exams that will potentially occur in September. However dates are not confirmed and an 'Autumn exam series' could be any month in the first term up to Christmas.

It appears Students will receive their results in August (no later than the normal results date and possibly earlier), they will then be able to decide to either **accept the results they are given by the exam board or decide to sit one or more subject exams**. These exams will be in the Autumn term or even an option of Summer 2021. This would obviously require students to continue working on specific subjects they select and 'peak' with their preparation for an Autumn set of exams rather than the cancelled May/June set.

I appreciate this is a difficult time and we will continue to update you as and when we know anything. **Staff will no longer be setting work for Year 11 given the Ofqual guidance above**. We will leave all the revision resources available to Year 11 for the rest of the academic year; in addition we will also continue to leave materials available for them to access in the Autumn Term. We are still available to give advice and support but we will no longer be phoning you to see if you have any work issues given this new advice.

Yours sincerely



Phill Quirk
Headteacher