

Key Information and FAQs for Students and Parents – summer term (w/c 27/04/20)

Year 12 Questions

1. Q: Given there have been no internal exams for Year 12, how are teachers predicting grades for current Year 12 students applying to UCAS and ensuring their accuracy?

A: When predicting grades, as per our usual practice, teachers use a range of information to predict grades for Year 12 students. This will include but is not limited to predicted grades as published in the Spring Term Progress Review, engagement with learning and overall performance to date.

2. Q: Will the Year 12 students have any internal exams at the start of Year 13?

A: Teachers will use internal assessment to assess the progress of students and we are continuing to look at this and will update this section as and when we have more information.

3. Q: Will students have more exams/assessments in Year 13 to make up for the fact that they haven't sat their internal exams in the summer of 2020?

A: Traditionally students in Year 13 are often subject to more assessments and an internal exam series prior to sitting their final exams. Due to the current situation, we are looking at what would normally be planned and are in discussion about how we might adjust this to ensure students are well prepared. We will update this section in due course.

4. Q: When will GCSE results be released?

A: 20th August 2020

5. Q: Do you know when we will be returning to college?

A: Not at present. We will continue to follow government advice and guidance and will update this page with all and any information as it becomes available. Until then, please be reassured that we shall continue to support you with your guided home learning.

6. Q: What support can I access?

A: You will continue to receive support from your teachers relating to all subject content. If you are struggling to complete the work or access material, please speak to your teachers and contact your PPT so that we can help you to overcome any barriers you might be facing. If you have any IT issues, please

remember that you can still email the IT helpdesk, who remain ready to support you.

GCSE MATHEMATICS/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Thank you for all those who have been engaging with the **GCSE MATHEMATICS/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS** work set by your teachers.

We will be in touch to provide you with further materials to support your home learning. The emphasis will be on developing skills needed for future studies, apprenticeships and the work place; the intention is to enrich your learning rather than simply prepare you for an exam.

For those of you who plan to take the exams in November 2020 or June 2021, we will also be providing you with links to relevant resources. You can use these independently, to help with revision and exam preparation. Look out for these links in your inbox!

The revision and skills materials that we send, will be designed for you to complete independently (most of the resources have accompanying videos to watch) and in your own time, **so you do not need to attend weekly Mathematics lessons**. However, bear in mind that we are still happy for you to check in with us for additional help, support or guidance if and when you need it.

Year 13 Questions:

7. Q: Will I receive the results from my Year 13 internal/mock exams? If not, why not?

*A: Based on current advice, we will not be sharing Year 13 internal exam grades with students. The results from these internal exams will only be used as one part of many when deciding on the centre assessment grade (CAG) for a student, as per the OFQUAL guidance. Prior to school and college closures, some curriculum areas shared Yr13 exam papers and marks (**not grades**) with students. However, this was also prior to the DfE announcement on 3 April, stating that centre assessment grades (CAG) should remain confidential.*

8. Q: How will CAGs be calculated for vocational and/or technical subjects?

A: The mechanism for awarding centre assessed grades (CAGs) have not yet been mapped out for vocational and/or technical subjects as it has for A Levels and we are awaiting for further guidance from OFQUAL at this stage. "As far as possible, such qualifications will be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, with learners receiving a calculated result. Calculated results could be based in part on teacher, trainer or tutor judgements of what result each learner would most likely have achieved had they been able to complete their assessments in summer 2020. This information will, where appropriate, be combined with a range of other evidence held by the school, college or training provider and/or by the awarding organisation offering the qualification. For example, many learners will already have completed some assessments in some modules, which

should be taken into account. Depending on the structure of the qualification, schools, colleges and training providers may be asked to provide an estimated result for the whole qualification, or for uncompleted components. There might be some instances where they are asked to provide a rank order of learners (as with GCSEs, AS and A levels).” (OFQUAL)

9. Q: Why should I continue to complete assignments e.g. BTEC L3 Sport when OFQUAL are informing me that “Schools and colleges do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of grading”.

A: We are still waiting for further clarification from OFQUAL regarding vocational and/or technical subjects so that we can advise on this question clearly. Whilst we are working on this, we advise you to continue to engage with learning and please remember that your courses are designed to enrich your academic learning potential and your progression, as much as they are designed to prepare you for an exam.

- 10.Q: Given the OFQUAL advice that any homework set after the college closed cannot count towards my overall grade, when can I stop attending my online lessons?

A: Ofqual has now communicated how the Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) qualifications will be calculated. The official letter from Ofqual is also available on our website. Please pay particular attention to page two where many of the answers to the questions you will have, at the moment, have been provided. We understand that these times are very difficult and uncertain for you. However, please be assured that your teachers will, as always, consider your best interests when making these important grade predictions.

At this stage, for Year 13 students, we feel it is now appropriate that we no longer offer taught lessons within the timetable, as you have now received all the content for your courses. Where this is not the case, teachers will pick this up with you. It is therefore important that you continue to check your emails regularly. Your teachers now need to have time to discuss your grades ensuring these are a fair reflection of your progress over the last two years and in keeping with the OFQUAL guidelines.

If they haven't already, your teachers will set independent work via email, Moodle/SharePoint/Google Classroom and provide individual support for subject-specific queries when needed via email. Please make sure that you download any revision resources and past papers and keep them saved on your computer and personal online drive in case you need them and choose to sit the exam in the future. As always, teachers will continue to respond to emails if you have a subject specific query, but please check the FAQ's page in the first instance to check if you can find an answer to your question.

Please note that it is important you make sure that you have enough resources to effectively revise from, as you may be unable to access them at the end of the academic year in August on the college system.

Whilst the expectation now is that you work independently, please remember that based on current OFQUAL guidance, you will have the opportunity to take exams in the Autumn term 2020, we encourage you to remain engaged with the material provided.

*These further learning opportunities **do not** relate to Summer 2020 assessment, instead they will consolidate learning and develop the "soft" skills for further studies at university and/or future employment. You must remember that your courses are designed to enrich your academic learning potential and your progression, as much as they are designed to prepare you for an exam.*

11.Q: When will my A Level results be released?

A: *13th August 2020*

12.Q. Can I provide additional evidence to support my teachers providing Centre Assessed Grade?

A. No. Your teachers will be using all of the information/data they have collected over the duration of your programme to make informed judgements to provide a Centre Assessed Grade. Please be assured that your teachers will pay a significant regard to the progress that students have made and will follow the guidance provided by Ofqual.

13.Q. Can my teacher or my PPT tell me what my Centre Assessed Grade is?

A. No. Ofqual have provided very strict guidance to colleges and schools regarding the submission of Centre Assessed Grades to exam boards as such no student will be told the grade/s that are submitted for their subjects.

14.Q. Can students appeal the grade they are awarded in the summer?

A. No. Students will not be able to appeal grades they have been awarded. However, Ofqual will be making provision for colleges and schools to make appeals on the grounds of a mistake in the way the grade was calculated for a particular student/s. In addition where the school or college believes the wrong information was used to generate calculated grades, or that a mistake was made when the exam board standardised the grades or communicated the grades to centres an appeal can be made.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or

in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression.

Vocational Qualifications

15.Q: I am in Y12, and study a BTEC L3 and/or OCR Technical (**including students who are in their first year of their qualification**), what should I be doing?

A: *We are continuing to monitor the information provided by awarding organisations, for all vocational courses, regarding the submission of calculated grades and the process involved. Until we receive this information, we will be **delaying any formal assessment**.*

Please be assured that we are working in your best interests to ensure that you are not disadvantaged. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to engage with your teachers, the learning opportunities and the support they are providing to you.

16.Q: I am in **Y12**, and study a **BTEC L2**, what should I be doing?

A: *We have some clarification with regards to the continuation of assessment and are now able to advise that we feel that is now appropriate that we **no longer carry on with taught lessons or the completion of assignment work**.*

Whilst the exact mechanism for the calculation of a qualification grade is not yet clear, we now feel we have sufficient evidence to support the grades we will submit, if this is required.

For those students progressing into Level 3, your teachers will be in contact with you, to ensure that you are prepared for your new course.

17.Q: I am in **Y13** and study a **BTEC L3** and/or **OCR Technical L3 (students completing their qualification in 2020)**, what should I be doing?

A: *We have some clarification with regards to the continuation of assessment and are now able to advise that we feel that is now appropriate that we **no longer carry on with taught lessons or the completion of assignment work**.*

Whilst the exact mechanism for the calculation of a qualification grade is not yet clear, we now feel we have sufficient evidence to support the grades we will submit, if this is required.

18.Q: I am studying **Beauty Therapy/Motor Vehicle or an RSL course**, what should I be doing?

A: We are still waiting for further clarification from OFQUAL regarding vocational technical subjects so that we can advise on this question clearly. Whilst we are working on this, we advise you to continue to engage with learning and please remember that your courses are designed to enrich your academic learning potential and your progression, as much as they are designed to prepare you for an exam.

19. Q. Can I provide additional evidence to support my teachers providing Centre Assessed Grade?

A. No. Your teachers will be using all of the information/data they have collected over the duration of your programme to make informed judgements to provide a Centre Assessed Grade. Please be assured that your teachers will pay a significant regard to the progress that students have made and will follow the guidance provided by Ofqual.

20.Q. Can my teacher or my PPT tell me what my Centre Assessed Grade is?

A. No. Ofqual have provided very strict guidance to colleges and schools regarding the submission of Centre Assessed Grades to exam boards as such no student will be told the grade/s that are submitted for their subjects.

21.Q. Can students appeal the grade they are awarded in the summer?

A. No. Students will not be able to appeal grades they have been awarded. However, Ofqual will be making provision for colleges and schools to make appeals on the grounds of a mistake in the way the grade was calculated for a particular student/s. In addition where the school or college believes the wrong information was used to generate calculated grades, or that a mistake was made when the exam board standardised the grades or communicated the grades to centres an appeal can be made.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression.

Foundation Learning

22.Q. I am parent/carer for a student who is studying in Foundation Learning, what does this mean for the qualifications they are working towards?

A. We are continuing to monitor the information provided by awarding organisations regarding the submission of calculated grades and the process involved. Until we receive this information, we will be delaying any formal assessment.

Please be assured that we are working in the best interests of our Foundation Learning students to ensure that they are not disadvantaged. In

the meantime, we ask that students continue to engage with their teachers, the learning opportunities and the support they are providing to you. If you have any questions please contact Jackie Robinson or Justine Rawlings directly.

Prospective Students

23.Q: Will enrolment still be on the 20th August?

A: Yes, and this is when you will also receive your GCSE results from your schools. We will be providing you with more information about Enrolment in due course and will be contacting you directly about this.

24.Q: Will there be anything I can do to be preparing for my course?

A: Yes, we will have lots of information available to you on our website in relation to resources you can access, and this will be available to you from 5th June 2020.