

LeAF Studio

Holloway Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH11 9JW
Tel: 01202 578886 Email: studioschool@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk
Website: www.leafstudio.co.uk



Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

21 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 / 13 – Exams Update

Over the Easter holidays Ofqual have published their final guidance on how this year's GCSE and A Level exam grades will be calculated. A guide to this for parents and a letter from Ofqual to students can be found on the Ofqual website via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

In summary, Ofqual are asking schools to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. Schools will take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students - including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study. Where a student is entitled to an exam access arrangement, schools will judge the grade that these students would most likely have achieved if they had been able to sit their examinations with the intended reasonable access arrangement in place.

In addition to a centre-assessed grade, schools will be required to provide a rank order of students within each grade. This is because the statistical standardisation process that Ofqual will apply to these predictions will need more detailed information than the grade alone.

It is important to note that schools will not be allowed to share provisional grades or rank orders with students, parents or carers before final results have been issued in August. Once centre assessment grades have been submitted to exam boards, the process to produce the final grades will start. More information will be given to teachers, students, parents and carers at the time final results are issued – this is August 13th for A-Levels and August 20th for GCSE results, which were the original dates given before the exams were cancelled. Therefore, we respectfully ask you and your children not to contact the school or individual teachers with questions or queries regarding anything to do with grades or predictions as they will be unable to share or discuss these with you. We ourselves will not actually know final grades until the results days in August as Ofqual have stated that they may modify the predicted grades according to their statistical analysis.

Following the release of results, 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 and Ofqual will release more information about this and any appeals process in due course.

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The government have set up a consultation on these proposals and are encouraging all stakeholders to give their feedback. Please use this link to access further information and give your opinion if you would like to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020>

Please be advised that this announcement only applies to GCSE and A Level courses. All of our Post-16 students are taking other general and vocational or technical qualifications and the final Ofqual guidance for this is still being formulated. Essentially, it will follow similar lines based on teacher predictions but they have indicated that any completed units will be taken into consideration. I know that Mr Lake and Mr Evans have been in touch with their groups and have explained to them what they need to get completed to enable these units to be included.

Whilst Year 11 and 13 students will now no longer be set work to complete, it is important that this time is used to help prepare themselves for the next stage of their education. With this in mind, we will be providing A Level and BTEC preparation work for those Year 11 students looking to stay for the sixth form next year.

In addition, we have secured access to a fantastic curriculum and careers resource which will be accessible to all of our students, and Mrs Percival will be sending further information out about this in a letter next week.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during these unprecedented times, and we hope that you and your family are keeping safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Clark', written in a cursive style.

Mr T Clark
Vice Principal