



24 March 2020

Dear Year 13 Student,

It was sad to have to say an unexpected 'goodbye' to you all on Friday, but, those of you who were able to be in school, I hope you will agree that we made the best of it. You have been an amazing year group and I hope that you leave with many happy memories of your time with us. It is very important that you now keep yourselves and others safe and well by following the guidance and instructions from the government. The coming months will be challenging in ways that we could never have imagined.

I understand that you will be feeling very anxious regarding what will happen now that your examinations have been cancelled. Please be aware that it will not be possible for your teachers to give you a specific calculated grade at the moment as the mechanism will need to be carried out across all schools in the country in a standardised and fair way following government instructions that have not yet been fully released. We have limited information at this current time but I want to share with you all that we know.

New details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams has been released (20 March 2020). The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. The full details on the impact on summer exams can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The key points from the government document are as follows:

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university or an apprenticeship in the autumn. This means ensuring students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.

There will be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year or in summer 2021 for students who wish to.

Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The government recognises that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis.

In addition, if a student does not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again.

Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

The latest Question and Answer document published by the government is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

In addition University representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education. Remember that your university application includes a significant amount of information, including your GCSE results, personal statement and teacher reference and I am sure that universities will take this into account. The message from UCAS is not to rush into making decisions about accepting offers at the moment, and all universities will be offering virtual open days and offer days to help you make your decisions.

More information will be provided as soon as possible, and when we know we will pass it onto you. Do ensure that you regularly check KSHS website and your KSHS e-mails, and if you have lessons at Carre's or St George's, you should also check those e-mails regularly. I appreciate you will be keen to know specific details about likely grades. Until we have had a chance to understand the detail from Ofqual and plan for the regulations for this year that will not be possible.

Mrs Ross will be e-mailing you in the next few days to confirm all the subjects that you are entering for at A-level, BTEC and CTEC. Please look out for this and reply promptly to that e-mail.

In the meantime, you must complete any outstanding coursework for BTEC, CTEC and A-level subjects, by the deadline set for you by your teachers before school closed, as it is likely to be part of the evidence that teachers use to contribute towards your final grade. Please e-mail them the completed work, or upload it to their submit drive and e-mail them to let them know this is what you have done.

If you think that you may choose/have to sit any exams once schools are open again, or in summer 2021, then you should also continue to complete any work set by your teachers that enables you to finish your course, and undertake regular revision.

Kind regards

S. Chant

Miss Chant
Head of Sixth Form