

20.03.2020

Dear All,

The Government have announced in the last hour or so their initial plans for how external exam grades will be set – I have attached the full statement to this email, which is also available on their website:

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

As we expected, the announcement does not cover Pre-Us or International A Levels: we are still waiting for information from Cambridge Assessment International on these: we will update you as more information becomes available. The most important things for you to take away from the Government's statement are as follows:

- Universities have been told that they need to be flexible when considering how to honour offers of places: that is very good news indeed for you.
- As expected, the school will be asked to submit a range of data on how you have been doing; this might include coursework, mocks, and most importantly of all: your teachers' judgment on what we think you would have achieved had you sat exams.
- You will not necessarily receive the grade that your teachers submit – your final grade will be calculated externally. We don't know the details of how this will happen, but the Government have made assurances that their priority is that you are not disadvantaged.
- You might receive your grades at the end of July. There will be an appeals process if you are not happy with the grade you receive, and the opportunity to re-sit some exam exams if necessary.

Right now, it is very important that you concentrate on things you can control, not on the things you cannot. We haven't yet been told a date by which we have to submit grade data and until then, you have to assume that the work you do next week – and possibly after Easter too – can positively influence the grades that your teachers will submit.

We will continue to set you work remotely next week - the School strongly advise you that you should be ready to work and to enter into it with a really positive mind set. Your tutor will check in with you towards the end of the week – and will call home too – to see how things have gone.

As more information becomes available from the Department for Education and exam boards, we will keep you updated.

I understand that you will very naturally continue to be worried about this – that is completely understandable. Remember, though: we are on your side. Aim to try to control the things you can, and not worry about the things you cannot.

Once again, continue to look after yourselves, and each other.

With very best wishes,

Dr Truss