



7th May 2020

Dear Year 10 students

GCSE Exam Grading Information

We hope that you and your families are all keeping well and that you are not too bored. I hope that the good weather has meant that you've been getting outside for your daily exercise and dose of Vitamin D and that you are not sitting in your bedroom all day on your phones or watching "Tiger King" on repeat! We are all thinking of you and hoping that you are looking after yourselves and each other and staying in touch with each other through video calling. It is really important for your mental health that you do so and that you let us know if we can help with anything at all.

So, the government have now (finally!) given schools more information about how Year 10 GCSE grades will be awarded. We can confirm that any student who would have been sitting an exam in Year 10 will receive a grade allocated by their teachers. As we have been working on awarding GCSE grades to Year 11 students this is something we are able to do without much additional work. This letter explains how we will make recommendations to exam boards about what GCSE grades you should be awarded.

It is the firm belief of everyone at Wyvern St Edmund's that all students due to sit exams in the summer 2020 exam series *must not* be disadvantaged by the cancellation of exams due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Your futures depend on the professional judgments of your teachers and this is a responsibility we take very seriously. Members of staff responsible for making judgments about your grades understand the weight of this responsibility and are committed to providing you with fair, objective and *positive* grade judgments.

Heads of Department will choose (based on their specialist knowledge of their subjects) what evidence should be used to help decide, fairly and objectively, what you were likely to achieve had you been afforded every opportunity to ramp up your revision and to perform to *the best of your ability* in the summer 2020 exam series. Evidence will be drawn from, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Class work (both examples of work and teacher records of marks)
- Home work (both examples of work and teacher records of marks)
- Formal and informal class room based assessments (both examples of work and teacher records of marks)
- Mock exams (both examples of work and recorded outcomes)
- Non-examined assessments (NEAs) whether fully or partially complete
- Predictions made for the purposes of reports since September 2018.



All judgments made will be subjected to **three separate moderation** exercises before we submit them to the exam boards. That way you can be confident that the information we submit on your behalf is as accurate as it can be. **Please do understand though that the grades we submit may be changed by the exam boards** based so your final grade may not be what your teacher had suggested. This is because schools across the country have been asked to rank order their students from the highest to lowest grades so that they can be compared across the country regardless of their year group. This means that Year 10 students will be ranked alongside their Year 11 counterparts. Please be reassured that your teachers are working on this ranking very carefully, and your position will reflect your ability and potential, regardless of year group.

Full details of our policy can be found here:

[Exams Policy](#)

- [Addendum Examination Policy 2020](#)

Remember that Wyvern St Edmund's (like all schools nationally) are not allowed to tell you what grades we have submitted so we ask that you do not contact individual teachers with requests for any information about how grades will be assigned, or for any information about what grades will be assigned. In order to maintain the integrity and fairness of these results this is not a request to which we could respond.

If you have any questions please contact Mr Martin directly at nmartin@wyvernsted.org.

Stay safe. Stay home.

Yours sincerely

The Wyvern St Edmund's SLT