



03 April 2020

Dear Year 11 students and parents,

We hope you and your families are well. As you may be aware the government released further information about how GCSEs will be awarded following the cancellation of examinations this summer. Full details can be found attached to this email.

Ofqual, exam boards, schools and all the teachers at Testbourne will be working hard to ensure the GCSE results students receive are as fair as possible. Schools are being asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective assessment of what they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this summer.

We have been asked to consider the **full range of evidence** available to us when we grade students. This includes non-exam assessment (factoring in its stage of completion at the point of school closure), homework, classwork and mock exams. In addition to a predicted grade we are also being required to provide a rank order for each student within each grade. Exam boards will then put this information through a process of standardisation using a model being developed with Ofqual.

For some subjects Ofqual recognises that many students will have completed or nearly completed, **non-exam assessment**. This will be helpful to us in deciding each student's grade and rank order. We **do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work** for the purposes of grading. Schools have been advised to exercise caution in reviewing work completed after 20th March when schools closed due to a significant change in circumstance and context in which the work was done.

We are not allowed to share provisional grades, nor rank orders, with students or parents and carers before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, Heads of Department or Heads of Centre feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence.

For students completing vocational qualifications such as BTECs and VCerts, the government will be issuing advice on how these will be assessed. As soon as we have that guidance, we will let you know.

Teachers at Testbourne Community School are aware of the responsibility which has been entrusted to us in providing the grades we believe students would have achieved. We can assure you that this will be conducted in a robust, ethical and fair manner. Our staff will be doing everything that is possible to identify the most likely outcome for every child in every subject. **Maintaining the integrity of GCSEs, ensuring that we do not devalue the qualifications for this cohort and ensuring fair outcomes for our students it our top priority.**

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We hope this information puts your minds at rest and will allow you to relax over the Easter break. As soon as we have any additional updates, we will be in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J MacAulay
Assistant Headteacher

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