



23 April 2020

Letter for Y11 and Y13 parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are well at this challenging time and that you were able to get some rest over the Easter holidays.

I am sure that you will have heard lots of information and read news stories surrounding the awarding of grades for Y11 and Y13 qualifications in the summer.

Below are two important links that you may have seen. The first is guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020/letter-to-students-summer-2020-grading>

The second is aimed directly at students:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf

Exam boards will ask us for two pieces for information:

- A centre assessed grade for each student in each subject
- The rank order of students within each grade

We want to reassure you that we will use the detailed guidance that we are given from the exam boards to ensure that our assessment processes are robust and rigorous, without disadvantaging any students. We appreciate that this is a very uncertain time for you all but, through these robust processes, we will recognise the hard work and achievements of our students.

It is also really important to know that the grades that each school submit will be standardised by the exam boards who will have the final decision in the grades awarded. As the guidance above states, we ask that you do not contact the school or individual teachers to ask for information regarding grades.

Our Y11 and Y13 students are studying many courses that they have chosen and we're sure that it feels very odd to not be following these courses anymore. Although students may still be studying at home, this work is not going to count towards the final grades. We will use all available sources of information that we already hold to come to our decisions. But students deserve the right to finish the content of the courses that they have chosen so for subjects where the content has not been completed, teachers will continue to provide work. Students are encouraged to complete this for their own benefit, especially if they are continuing with the subject beyond this year.

For courses where the content had been covered and revision was taking place, and courses where there were coursework projects that might not be finished, there is no pressure to revise or complete this work so it might be best to prioritise subjects where content has not been completed, or subjects that students will continue to study next year. As I said, this work is not going to count towards the final grades.

We would strongly encourage Y11 students to explore some of the bridging units and other resources that will shortly be on the school website. This will help to prepare them for further study of these subjects.

For Y13 students who are moving onto university in September, we would advise that they contact the university directly for advice on how to prepare for the start of their new courses.

Overall, it is important for all young people at this time to keep their minds active and not lose their love for learning or self-discipline. Maintaining some kind of learning routine will help with this, with a focus on how best to prepare for the next stage in their education.

If you have any specific questions regarding futures and careers, you can contact our careers lead, Tom Peterson, on tom.peterson@theoxfordacademy.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Abi Banks
Deputy Headteacher