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3 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 Student

Now we have submitted our Centre Assessed Grades and ranks to the Exam Boards I wanted to keep you up to date about the next stage of the process.

You will be aware that in recent weeks our staff have been working hard to ensure the system the government has imposed for the awarding of exam grades this year is done following a rigorous and robust process to ensure it is as fair as possible for all students and that no student is disadvantaged. I am confident we have achieved this. This concludes the schools contribution to the process. The data is now being standardised by the Exam Boards. The result of this will determine the students' final grade. I have included an infographic below produced by Ofqual, which illustrates the next stage of the process. A full explanation of the process of the awarding exam grades can be found on the Ofqual website using the link below.

In brief, the following points taken from the Ofqual website summarise the next steps of the process.

- To make sure grades are as fair as possible, exam boards will standardise centre assessment grades using a statistical model which will include the expected national outcomes for this year's students, the prior attainment of students at each school and college (at cohort, not individual level), and previous results of the school.
- Because these arrangements have had to be put in place very quickly due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it would have been impossible to provide school and college staff with national training to support them in making standardised judgements. As such, it is highly likely that all centres will see some adjustment, in at least one subject, to their centre assessment grades, however carefully they have made their judgements. Such adjustments are in the interests of fairness to all students because they will ensure, as far as possible, that individual centres have not been too severe or too generous in comparison with other centres.
- The standardisation process will place more weight on a centre's historical performance in a subject than the submitted centre assessment grades where that will result in students getting the grades that they would most likely have achieved had they been able to complete their assessments in summer 2020.
- Because of the risk of unfairness, the model will not seek to reflect any trends in improvement or deterioration in a centre's outcomes in a subject over previous years (a centre's trajectory).

Please note in reference to the above information from Ofqual, it is 'highly likely' that the grades submitted by schools for individual students will be changed by the Exam Boards. Also more weight will be given to a school's previous exam performance in each subject than the individual grades submitted by the school. Lastly, the Exam Boards will not take in to account any expected improvements anticipated this year by the school due to an improving trend in a subject's performance.

In summary, we are anticipating based on the Ofqual guidance above that the grades submitted by teachers will have changed in most cases as a result of the Exam Boards standardisation process.

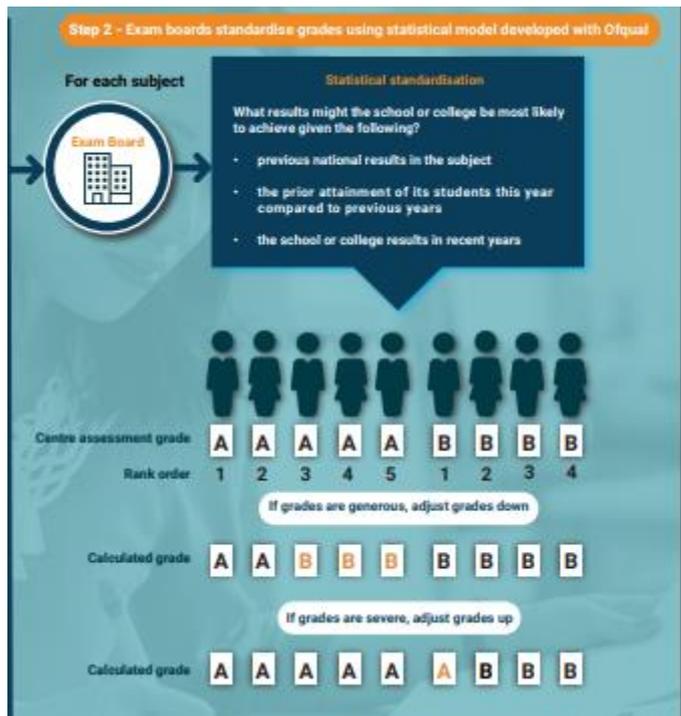


Lastly, we recognise the very challenging circumstances our Year 11 students have endured this year. We want to be able to have, as far as possible given the current safety guidelines, an opportunity to celebrate together the culmination of their secondary school career. Mr Whitmore has been in touch to share our plans for the Prom, which we do hope will be able to go ahead.

Unfortunately, our arrangements for results day on Thursday 20 August will have to be adapted in order to adhere to the latest safety guidelines. Once we have determined what is possible we will be in touch to confirm arrangements for results day.

The advice in full for the awarding of grades can be read using the link below to the Ofqual website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>



Yours faithfully

Mr M Ashdown
Deputy Headteacher