



Starbank
School

RE: GCSE grades for Year 11

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you as on Friday 3rd April 2020, there has been a national announcement regarding how your child will be awarded their grades for the qualifications they were due to complete this summer. The guidance, published by Ofqual, relates to GCSE, AS and A levels only. Separate guidance will be issued in relation to BTEC and OCR Nationals. After working so hard for so long to achieve their qualifications, our pupils will be extremely disappointed not to have the opportunity to take their examinations this summer, but the decision taken was unavoidable in the context of the national coronavirus crisis.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the letter from Ofqual issued today outlining the process that will take place in the coming months to award final grades and certificates. Ofqual is the national regulatory body in charge of qualifications, examinations and assessments in England. Each school in the country is now required to follow the process that has been announced today:

- ★ For each subject, schools will submit the grade they believe your child was most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned, based on work and assessments completed before 20 March.
- ★ Schools are not allowed to share this grade with pupils, parents or anyone else
- ★ To make sure grades are fair, all grades will go through a national standardisation process using a model which is currently being developed by Ofqual.
- ★ Once all of the data has been analysed, a final grade will be awarded by the exam board.
- ★ The grade submitted by the school will not necessarily be the grade awarded by Ofqual.
- ★ Results will be announced no later than the previously published dates in August (20 August for GCSEs), and may be published earlier.
- ★ There will be an opportunity for pupils to appeal if they feel that one or more of their grades does not reflect their performance. They will also have the opportunity to sit an exam in autumn 2020 or summer 2021.

Shaping Stars of Today for Tomorrow



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Your child will not be asked to complete any further work to contribute to the grades that your child's school submits to the relevant exam board. I am pleased that it has been confirmed that the grades a child receives will be no different to other years. That is, your child will get a certificate for that subject and all grades will hold the same standing by all educational establishments, such as colleges and universities, apprenticeship providers and businesses. Despite the national examinations for GCSE, AS and A level examinations having been cancelled ***it is of utmost importance that your child continues to constructively and productively engage in continuing their learning.*** Whatever your child plans to do next, it is vitally important that between now and then they are not put at a disadvantage by the current school closures.

I am grateful to you for continuing to work in partnership with your child's school. I hope that you and your family stay safe and well in these most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely,

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