



EEM/Sept2019/Yr11ExamsC19/jf

23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are currently in the process of managing our Academy closure and also doing all we can to support remote learning for our young people. However, I am writing to inform you of the current DfE guidance regarding Year 11 examinations. Over the last few days we have received information from both Government and Examination Boards and we would like to try to break it down into key points for your information. We know that everyone is concerned but learners across the UK are in the same position and we are committed to making sure that our young people are not disadvantaged in anyway.

The Government has provided clarification on how qualifications and grades will be awarded. We have provided an official link to the statement below. It is self-explanatory but we felt that it might be useful to summarise the key points:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

- Teachers will be asked to make a judgement on the grade they feel learners would have achieved if they had sat all exams and completed courses as normal. This judgement will inform the grade they are awarded for their subjects. Importantly, teachers will be able to base their judgement on a wide range of evidence and not just on most recent mock exam results. This means that tests, essays, classwork and homework etc. can be taken into account. This also means that the predicted grade that teachers recorded on previous reports may potentially differ from the final grade they suggest should be awarded. Teachers will do everything they can to ensure learners achieve the grades they were on track to achieve.
- The plan is for the Examination Boards to inform learners of the grades they have been awarded at the end of July, this is earlier than normal.
- An appeals process will be put in place if learners feel the grades they are awarded do not sufficiently reflect what they feel they would have achieved had they sat all exams as normal. At the moment we do not have any information about how this process will work.
- Learners will be awarded full CNAT, BTEC and GCSE qualifications and will eventually receive certificates as normal. The value of these qualifications will be no different from those awarded to learners in previous years.



Sponsored by
Dudley College of Technology



- Although full qualifications will be awarded, there will be the opportunity to sit exams in subjects early next academic year (i.e. at some point from September 2020 onwards) if learners wish to do this. This may be something that learners will want to consider and we will speak to everybody a little later in the year when more detail is available.

There are a few more points I would like to raise now that we have more clarification on how qualifications will be awarded:

- Firstly, the completion of any coursework that teachers require learners to complete at home is vital now that we know their judgement will be used to inform final grades. This is particularly important for subjects such as CNAT courses, BTEC courses, Art, D&T subjects and Photography.
- Finally, please refrain from contacting teachers about suggested awarded grades. Teachers are working with learners, not against them. We always have the best interests of our learners at heart and teachers need time to reflect back on the wealth of assessment information before making their final judgment. Teachers must of course be able to evidence the grade that they award.

The Government has put together a document of frequently asked questions about exams and you can find that at this shortened link <https://bit.ly/2xT80xj>. There is very little we can add at this point but will do all our best to reassure learners at this difficult time and ensure that we communicate information as and when we receive it.

The most important thing I can say now is to ask learners NOT to give up on their studies. **It is also vital that all learners keep any books, PPE papers, assessment materials and home learning safe and secure so that these can be called upon as evidence where necessary.** Learners should be encouraged to complete coursework, study and continue to work hard. In turn, my priority is to ensure that none of our learners face a barrier when it comes to moving onto the next stage of their lives.

Staff are on hand to answer any subject-specific questions from parents, carers and learners. Mrs Duffield, our Year 11 Learning Manager will continue to support learners with any concerns they might have or any emotional stress or anxiety brought on by these events.

We will be in touch with further updates. In the meantime, stay safe and continue to follow guidance from Government departments and the NHS.

Yours faithfully



Mrs E. Edwards-Morgan
Principal