



SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

YEAR 11 EXAM UPDATE

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: YEAR 11 EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Further to the decision to close all schools with effect from today and to cancel all examinations and assessments, I wanted to write with an update on the latest government guidance which has just been released. This is an extract from the press release.

“This year’s summer exam series, including A levels, GCSEs and other qualifications, and all primary assessments, have been cancelled. The Government’s priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers’ representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year’s students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.”

The future of our students in Year 11 continues to be our top priority, even whilst we are closed. Once we have more information, we will develop our response and an appropriate plan, which we will then share with students and parents. As a school we will make sure we help our young people to make the right decisions, at the right time and move on into the next stage of their educational journey.

Yours sincerely

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