

Dear Students and parents/carers of Year 11 and 13

As you know we have been waiting for the announcement from the exam boards about how the pupils will get their GCSE and A level grades this summer. There was a statement on Friday 20 March about this but there is still a lot of detail to resolve for schools and we will hear more about this over the coming weeks.

We know that the May and June exams will not take place but you will still get a GCSE or A level/BTEC in all your subjects. The very difficult aspect is how these grades will be decided fairly across the country.

Further information released on Friday confirmed the following:

- The exam regulator (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 us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- 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 be asked to 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 soon.
- 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.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's 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
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

This is as much as we know at this point. When more information comes out, we will share it with you.

As parents:

1. Please ensure son/daughter has kept all their returned mock papers/exercise books/folders safely as these may be needed by us in the near future.
2. Keep your son/daughter working hard as they will still be on A Level/college/University courses in September and they need to keep learning. We

are currently looking at how we can best prepare pupils joining the Sixth Form for A Levels during this time and we will be contacting you soon about this.

All the staff would want to emphasise the importance of keeping learning going because this learning is important in itself, not just for taking an exam.

I am very aware that you are feeling sad about potentially missing out on the rituals and traditions of finishing the school year with events such as the Prom, leavers party for Year 13, year books and hoodies. We are looking into what we can do about these matters; however, I am sure you appreciate this is difficult given the challenging times we are in with Covid-19.

I am so sorry this has disrupted such an important year at school, but please be assured we are doing all we can for you to continue your plans for next year and the next stage of your education. Please keep working hard on your studies via Google Classroom and do not lose heart. Make sure you are following government advice on staying safe and healthy.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact our Exams Officer, Sindy Stiles sstiles@thebusheyacademy.org, please do not contact individual teachers.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Hebblethwaite
Principal