

Dear Students, Parents/Carers

I understand how unsettling the past few weeks have been for you, in the rapid changes that the COVID-19 virus have had on our lives and since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer. I know that everyone concerned has been waiting for news and am sure that you will have seen that Ofqual released further information on Friday 3rd April.

We are writing to all students who are due to sit A level or GCSE examinations, and, for under eighteens, their parents/carers to provide an update on the process Ofqual and the Exam Boards have agreed and how we at East Sussex College will administer this.

Our explicit aim in this is to be fair to all students this summer and to make sure no one is disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented circumstances.

How will grades be calculated?

East Sussex College Group has been asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements the:

- grade we believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- order the performance of each student by grade, within each subject

We are currently working on the process that will enable our teaching teams to standardise their judgements at each of our campuses. This will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams taken before 3rd April; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your studies with us.

This information will be shared with exam boards at the end of May 2020 which will allow them, with Ofqual, to standardise the grades of *all* across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when GCSE, AS and A level students in England making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one we send to the exam board.

Important note: Ofqual and the Exam boards have specifically instructed all schools and colleges to not disclose this information to students/parents/carers. The Data Protection Act also provides an exemption from Freedom of Information requests on this information until after the exam results have been published. **Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.**

We have adapted some of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that Ofqual shared on 3rd April to help explain this further.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

We do not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

We will however continue to set work for you to complete. In the half term after Easter this will complete the syllabus and provide you with all the knowledge for the course you are studying. After the May half term we will focus upon revision and exam preparation.

Whilst this work won't be used to make grade judgements we do strongly encourage you to maintain your learning with us for a number of reasons. These are:

- it will better prepare you for your progression onto another course with us, to Higher Education (HE), an apprenticeship or work;
- Higher Education providers may introduce entrance exams and the work we provide over the summer term will better prepare you for these, if they are introduced;
- If you don't receive the grade(s) you expected there will be an opportunity to sit an exam in the early part of the Autumn term and the work set next term will support your preparation for these.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

As has been already stated, Ofqual and the Exam boards have specifically instructed all schools and colleges to not disclose this information so please do not put your teachers in a difficult position by asking them for this information.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) please discuss your entry directly with us. If staff are confident that they have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement then we may include you in this process.

Ofqual and the Exam boards are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades. We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible.

When will I get my results?

Ofqual and the Exam Boards will be working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

Ofqual are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

What if I don't get the results I was expecting?

Ofqual and the Exam Boards are working on the appeals process and further information will be shared when we have it. The guidance shared with Centres like us on 3rd April the following initial information was shared. 'Centres should expect the possible grounds of appeals to be relatively narrow and based on application of the process... *'Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.'*

This advice suggests to us that the best course of action for all students is to continue their studies with us to enable you to be able to take your exams in the autumn if the results are not what you expected.

The information Ofqual have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have.

This information does not apply to any other general and vocational or technical qualifications you are studying instead of or alongside GCSEs, AS and A levels. Ofqual and Exam Boards are working urgently to develop an approach and we will provide further information as soon as possible.

We will keep updating our [website](#) as new information becomes available.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

If you have any specific questions on the information contained in this letter then please contact:

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