

26th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Department for Education (DfE) releasing further guidance as to how GCSE grades will be determined we wanted to contact you and reassure you that our Year 11 students will not face any disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances. The Government has announced that these exam results will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.

The grade a student will achieve, in each subject area, will be based on a range of data collected over their time at Poltair:

School Projected Grade – This will be a teacher assessment of the likely grade for each child in each subject. Mock exam results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account in this process, alongside other factors such as non-examined content and controlled assessment. At Poltair we have collected a wide range of data that could be used, from informal assessments to records of homework. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.

Prior Attainment Data – Performance from Primary school SATS tests will be used to see how students from previous years, of similar ability, performed historically. This will then be used to benchmark outcomes, so they are comparable to previous year groups. This will ensure that students are not at a disadvantaged compared to previous year groups.

Controlled Assessment – The calculated grade process will take into account non-exam assessment and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.

We feel that the process being proposed by the DfE is robust and fair, so that students achieve a grade reflective of their efforts and performance. The aim from the DfE is that these grades are issued before the end of July. However, we as yet cannot confirm the date due to the current Government guidelines regarding social distancing.

Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Further guidance from the DfE and Ofqual will be issued in the coming weeks and we will update you as this is received.

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It is imperative that students continue with their studies for all subjects as any work completed as part of home study may form part of their final grade. We also want to ensure that every pupil is fully prepared for their next steps, be it college or apprenticeship.

All class teachers have been asked to keep in touch with their classes and to set work using the packs provided or set lesson material to ensure all pupils are still learning. There are also numerous websites that are currently offering free resources to support GCSE revision. In particular, the Teachit resources are recommended.

In addition, for those wanting to go on to A Levels the following link, leading to a range of transition booklets maybe of use:

<https://www.chingfordfoundation.org/page/?title=Resources+for+Students+during+Closure&pid=194&action=saved>

BTEC subject teachers will be setting tasks to ensure all controlled assessment is fully completed ahead of the collection of the GCSE grades. Ofqual have made it clear that pupils can work on their assignments at home as they would in school.

We thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions, please do let me know.

Yours faithfully



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