

Exams Update: Monday 23rd March 2020

Following the decision to close schools and not go ahead with any of this summer's exams, the government has announced more details of how grades will be awarded for all qualifications for Years 11, 12 and 13 this summer. We know you are keen to have some clarity, so we wanted to share this information with you right away.

Here are the main points:

- Regulators 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.
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- 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.

For Year 13 students who have applied to university, we have received the following information from UCAS:

"The admissions timetable will run similarly to previous years, and we expect all students will be awarded a calculated grade for any exam they were entered for, with some variations across the UK, subject to confirmation from awarding bodies.

As we are aware this will start to trigger a lot of questions from students, we have published updates on ucas.com and will be emailing affected applicants to explain what this means for them. Ahead of this, we will share these emails with you. In the meantime, please continue to advise your students not to rush into making any decisions, and to carefully consider any unconditional offers."

Whilst this gives us some idea about how your children's grades will be awarded, we are awaiting further specific details on how this will work. We will share this with you as soon as we have it.