

8th May 2020

FAO: Parent(s)/Carer(s) of Year 10 Students

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s):

In the letter to parents of 30 March '20, we clarified the school's position that provisional centre assessment grades for GCSE English Literature would not be generated for students in Year 10. This was a decision that took into account the premature end to students' preparations for the exam and our understanding that the determination of the centre assessment grades would not be within the school's control. Our judgement was, and is, that, in these particular circumstances, the students' interests are likely to be best served by taking the examination next summer. Following a period of consultation, Ofqual have clarified that centre assessment grades will be calibrated taking a variety of factors into account and we believe, as do many others (and as reflected in Ofqual's early rhetoric), that it is a process that should only be used where there is no alternative. We have talked this through in detail with other colleagues and the Chair of Governors and also appraised the Governing Body of our thoughts on this matter.

Following a period of consultation, Ofqual have decided that schools should be given the flexibility to make decisions for themselves on whether, or not, to generate provisional centre assessment grades. The stated rationale for this position is that some students would be disadvantaged if grades could not be awarded – those where their school discontinued teaching that subject and/or where there were some students with quite specific special educational needs with subject entries spread over several years. This is explained in more detail in: ['Update on summer 2020 for students in year 10 and below'](#).

We understand the challenges of the current situation and know that the current uncertainty over school reopening is a source of anxiety. Every effort will therefore be made to support your son/daughter through these difficult times. In particular, the English team are working hard on a programme that will ensure that the skills development work for the English Language GCSE course gets good attention, whilst also providing regular recaps on the English Literature content that has already been studied. The mock examination schedule will include English Literature, with appropriate preparatory work put in place for both this qualification and the English Language course. Given the specific circumstances and the importance of the subjects, we will also prioritise intervention work around the English curriculum (Literature and Language).

Best wishes:

Stuart Jones
(Executive Headteacher)

Nicola Mason
(Head of School)