



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

Year 13 Update

[This email has an attachment - click here to open](#)

Dear Parents

Ofqual has today released further guidance on how examination grades will be determined this year. The link to this information may be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

There is also a letter to students from Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual that is attached to this email. Please read this carefully. Rest assured that the Senior Leadership Team, along with Heads of Department and subject teachers will be working together to ensure that we follow the guidance accurately and that we fulfil the promises made in our earlier emails that we will use all information at our disposal to generate fair and positive grades for each of our students before we submit them to Ofqual for statistical adjustment.

The guidance is clear that we must award grades that students would most likely have achieved if they had taken their examinations and completed any non-examined assessments. We will be taking into account classwork, homework, any participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama or PE, the results of any assignments or mock exams, previous examination results and any other records of student performance over the course of their studies. I know there have been particular concerns regarding the timing of the enforced school closure and the Year 13 Trial exams. Due to the circumstances in which they were taken, the recent Year 13 mock examinations will not be given a significant weighting in this process and these results will only be used alongside other information to see students in the most positive light possible.

To reassure students who fear that their performance at any stage during the A level course is not consistent with their potential final examination performance, we will use our data on previous cohorts to identify, track and apply an upwards trajectory as part of our positive approach to completing our part of this process. We will also consider individual circumstances such as students' IEPs, illness and family situations, for example. We also know that some students make remarkable progress in the last few weeks of the course. In accordance with the attached letter from Ofqual, staff must not release mock results, predicted grades or any other relevant data during this process.

Once again, we fully appreciate the effects that this unprecedented situation will be having on all of us. Whilst the way in which examination grades will be determined this year has changed, please remember that what hasn't changed is our continued commitment to hold our students' very best interests at heart, both now and for the future.

Very best wishes,

Matthew

Mr M Lynch

Assistant Headteacher – Head of Sixth Form

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