

Dear Students & Parents

### **Year 13 Exams Update**

I know that this is a difficult time for Year 13 and I can only imagine the levels of anxiety the lack of clarity is causing. I hope that by the end of February we will have some more details; I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know what information we have already. I have recorded a message for the students and I will be online to talk to them if they have any queries tomorrow lunchtime.

Myself, Ms Oxley-Hughes and Ms Taggart are always happy to talk to students who have concerns or questions and they should email us in the first instance and we can then arrange an online meeting for them.

At the moment the government has been clear that the A Level exams will not go ahead as planned in the summer. This would seem to be the right decision considering the disruption to their learning that students have suffered over the past year, through no fault of their own.

Students will be awarded Teacher Assessed Grades, but at the moment the Government have not confirmed what evidence should be used to calculate them. There is no confirmation at the moment as to whether the BTEC and Pre-U exams will go ahead in the summer as planned.

However, all of these plans have to be approved by Ofqual before they can go ahead. The government will launch a consultation this week on their proposed plans for how these grades will be calculated. This will be open for approximately two weeks and then there will be a period of time for the findings of this consultation to be assessed.

The one area of clarity at the moment from Ofqual is that work that is currently being produced could potentially be used as part of the evidence. The Head of Ofqual is clear that students should continue to work on coursework and assessments as if the exams have not been cancelled. There is some talk of externally assessed tests that would be marked in school, but again there is no clarity on this.

I have spoken to the Pre-U exam board and I have put the case that there should be some parity between the A Level and Pre-U. They are currently planning for the exams to go ahead, but they have acknowledged that this is subject to Ofqual approval. I will continue to request this of them. If the outcome is that there is not the parity that would be hoped for, I will contact the Universities of the students taking these qualifications to ensure they are aware of this disparity.

The universities have said that they will make a further statement on their admissions once the consultation is closed and there is greater clarity on how these grades will be assessed. Once again, we will support students with communicating with the universities and do everything we can to help them progress to their chosen destination.

Whilst this may not resolve all the queries you have, I hope that it gives you greater understanding of the current situation. I will let you know once we have more information. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Ward  
Director of Sixth Form - Senior Assistant Headteacher  
Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership