



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### A level Grade Calculation

I am writing to update you on the government's announcement that all public examinations have been cancelled and the guidance on calculating a student's A level grades.

The Department for Education has released information which provides some insight into how A level grades will be awarded this year, although we are waiting for some further clarification. You can access this information by visiting the following website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> A student's A level grade will be decided by taking into account a broad range of indicators such as:

1. Prior attainment;
2. Mock examination results;
3. Teacher assessment;
4. Predicted grades; and
5. School/colleges previous A level results and their students' progress score.

Ofqual and the exam boards will contact schools/colleges to inform them precisely what information they require and the submission deadline date. It is anticipated that all students will receive their 'calculated' A level grade by the end of July 2020. I appreciate students and families will be anxious, especially if they haven't performed as strongly as they would have liked in the mock examination. Please be assured, your teachers and I are fully aware of the academic potential of our students and how much progress they can make from their mock examination to their final A level exams. **What students and parents must not do is begin contacting teachers or the school trying to influence their decisions around predicted grades.** Please allow us to do our jobs, we have your child's best interest at heart and given their exceptional GCSE grades, the Sixth Forms outstanding A level performance and progress in all subjects over the last 4 years we will be able to provide a strong predicted grade for our students.

Where a student believes their 'calculated' grade does not reflect their full potential there will be an appeals process. Additionally, students will be able to sit an A level examination in the subject/s sometime in the Autumn term. At this stage we don't have specific details on the appeals process or the evidence a student will need to submit if they choose to use this avenue. Similarly, no date for any future examinations have been shared and we can assume further information will follow in due course. I would strongly advise Y13 students to keep all their course notes, draft essays, mock examination papers, revision notes/cards in the event they wish to appeal the grade awarded. Furthermore, students should continue to regularly review their notes and practise exam questions to ensure they are prepared to sit an exam in Autumn 2020 or Summer 2021 should the need arise.

I will continue to update you as soon as further information is sent to me.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter in further detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ismail

**Principal of the NCS**

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