

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you so much for your support over the last few days regarding the dramatic conclusion of the Year 13 and 11 academic courses. The College would like to offer gratitude and appreciation to all the students involved and echo the thoughts of the whole staff for the maturity shown by students at this time; they truly were fabulous and a credit to Arthur Mellows.

The final grade for each academic subject, from our current understanding, will take into account a range of evidence and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. There will also be other factors such as prior attainment, **so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect only their predicted grades**. Ofqual (who regulate Qualifications, Examinations and Assessments in England) will consider carefully how to ensure the process is as fair as possible, which is likely to include considering measures that reflect how much progress a student has made.

The Government have informed us that they will work closely with Ofqual and awarding organisations to ensure students are awarded a fair grade that recognises the work they have put in. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

The College would like to stress that staff will of course make sensible, fair and appropriate decisions which are based on their extensive professional knowledge and experience, combined with the evidence of student's attainment to make these decisions. Ultimately, of course, the final results are in the hands of the examination boards and we ask parents and students to respect this.

A number of staff have received emails and concerns from students regarding their predicted or mock grades with the intention of trying to estimate what grade they may achieve in the official assessment. Whilst we appreciate how worrying this may be for students, we would ask at this time, that students and parents refrain from contacting or pressuring staff to indicate what grade they may be entering.

As soon as the College receives further guidance, we will notify you.