

3 April 2020



**West Kirby**  
Grammar School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to our communication with you on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Ofqual have today issued guidance and clarification concerning the awarding of grades for all examinations that were due to take place this summer. The full guidance is attached to this message for your information but the main points are detailed below.

- Schools have been asked to submit a Centre Assessed Grade for each examination that a student was entered to sit. This grade will take into account the full range of available evidence including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study.
- Schools have also been asked to submit a rank order for students within each grade boundary. This is to help Exam Boards with the moderation process where a more detailed picture of the centre's assessed grades will be needed.
- No new work or assessments should take place and schools are being asked to make their judgements based on a student's work to date and development during the course.
- Schools and colleges will not need to submit any supporting evidence, such as student work, to exam boards, but they should retain records of this in case exam boards have any queries about the data.
- To make sure that grades are fair between schools and colleges, exam boards will put all centre assessment grades through a process of standardisation (this process is currently being developed by Ofqual). It is expected that this will look at evidence such as the expected national outcomes for this year's students; the prior attainment of students at each school and college; and the results of the school or college in recent years. Standardisation will not change the rank order of students within each centre, however, if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more severe or generous than others, exam boards will adjust the grades of some or all of those students upwards or downwards accordingly.
- The statistical model used for standardisation will consider prior attainment at a whole school level, not at individual student level. As such, students' individual performance will not be predetermined by their prior attainment at KS2 or GCSE.
- It is important that schools and colleges do not share provisional grades, nor rank orders, with students or parents and carers before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgements. Therefore, it is equally important that staff are not approached by students or parents in reference to this.

- Results will not be delayed after the dates they were expected to be received in August and ideally will be issued a little earlier.
- Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

Please do read the full guidance issued by Ofqual as this will likely answer any additional questions that you may have and please rest assured that all of the staff at WKGS will be working hard in the coming weeks to ensure that students receive a fair outcome and the results that they deserve.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Clarke', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Mr S Clarke  
Deputy Headteacher