07 April 2020

Dear Student

Firstly, I hope you are your family are well and managing to stay safe during this challenging time. I am writing to update you on the latest information that has been released on behalf of the government, through Ofqual.

Please find a letter that they have produced for all students in England. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf>

As you will read in this letter, it describes the process on how your grades will be calculated in order for you to get your final grades. This information is for GCSE subjects only and further advice for vocational qualifications will be provided separately when they release it. In summary, it will tell you how your exam grades will be awarded this summer.

1. The school will send the exam boards a centre assessed grade, this is the grade we think you would have got his summer. This will be based on a wide range of information we have for you such as classwork, homework, trial exam results, controlled assessment work and any end of unit tests that you may have done. The government have made it very clear that we should not ask you to complete any more assessments or controlled assessments for GCSE subjects and only use the information we have already got.
2. The school also has to send a rank order of students within each grade for each subject e.g. all the students that have been given a centre assessed grade of 5 in a subject, we have to rank order which student is most likely to get a grade 5 all the way down the student who is least likely to get a 5. Ofqual have made it very clear in their guidance ‘Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued’. Therefore, please do not ask your teachers about this, as they will not be able to tell you.
3. When the exam boards have received this information they will use it, alongside other national data to produce a final grade. Therefore, they may change the grade that we give to them.

After all of this has happened you will receive your individual grades in the summer as normal, however a date hasn’t been published yet, so we will update you with this when we know. You will be able to use your results to open opportunities to gain sixth form, college and university places as well as employment requirements in the future. They will be treated exactly the same as previous exam results.

If you are unhappy with your results when you receive them, you will be able to appeal, however we don’t know any details yet. What is clear is that exam boards are potentially going to offer additional exams in the autumn, in which you will be able to sit, if you feel that you could get a better grade than that which you have received. When this information is published we will update you. As mentioned at the start of this letter this guidance is for GCSE subjects only.

We are still waiting for guidance in regards to vocational qualifications and therefore you should continue to complete any work towards these subjects ‘if’ you are able to. When we receive guidance on these subjects we will update you.

If you have any concerns or queries, please get in touch with me at

[bpearce-brindley@merrillacademy.derby.sch.uk](mailto:bpearce-brindley@merrillacademy.derby.sch.uk)

Stay safe and wishing you all the best

Yours sincerely

Mr Pearce-Brindley

Senior Assistant Headteacher-Academic