



# CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Awarding of Grades – GCSE, A Level and Vocational Qualifications**

I wrote to you all on the 27<sup>th</sup> March to set out my understanding of how grades will be allocated this summer for GCSEs, A level and vocational qualifications and the actions we were taking as a school in respect of this. In the last week, we have now received the guidance from Ofqual, the exam regulator, as to how the process will operate. I want to take the opportunity to provide you with a summary of this guidance. This guidance itself can be accessed through the following link

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/880612/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents\\_FINAL\\_UPDATED\\_21APR2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880612/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_FINAL_UPDATED_21APR2020.pdf)

### **How will grades be calculated?**

The school will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of the subjects taken by the students:

- the grade for each subject the school believes each student **would have been most likely to have achieved if they had taken their exam and completed any non-exam assessment this summer**. In making this decision, we are assuming that teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. This grade is known as the centre assessed grade.
- within each subject, the order of the students by performance for each grade. For example, for all those students with a grade 5 in GCSE maths, or a grade B in A level biology, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on.

### **How will the school determine the centre assessed grade?**

The decision on the grade for each student will be a holistic professional judgement, made by the school, that balances the different sources of evidence. In making the judgement existing records and available evidence (as far as possible in the context of current public health advice) will be used. This will include the following, where it is available:-

- performance of students in their 'pre-public exams' (mock exams) and other exam style assessments completed by the students.
- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, homework, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.

HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL

CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL, COWPER STREET, LONDON, EC2A 4SH

T: 020 7253 3741 | E: [info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) | W: [www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk](http://www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk)





# CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

Given the timing of the announcement of the cancellation of the exams, there may be incomplete evidence, and the range and amount of evidence will vary between different subjects and students. Judgements will need to be made on the evidence that is available.

## **Approach for vocational qualifications**

The government's guidance in respect of vocational qualifications is still being finalised. However, we expect the approach to be very similar to the one for GCSEs and A levels. The school will provide a grade and rank order for each student, taking into account the expected performance in examination units and the non-examination work that had been completed up to the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **How will access arrangements and requests for special consideration be dealt with?**

Where students have an agreed reasonable adjustment (for example a reader or scribe when taking the exam), or other students have an agreed access arrangement (for example extra time in the exam) the judgement the school makes will take account the likely achievement with the reasonable adjustment/access arrangement in place.

Special consideration requests, in the event that a student is unable to take an assessment or suffers a traumatic event that might affect their performance, will not apply this summer. Instead the judgement the school makes will reflect how the students would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in mock exams, other assessment or work completed by the student, the school will take account of this when making their judgements.

## **How will the school determine the rank order for students within grades and what is the purpose of the rank order?**

The school will provide a rank order of students within each grade. Where there is more than one class taking a subject, a rank order will be needed for all students who are taking that subject at the school. The evidence used to establish the rank order is the same as the evidence used for establishing the centre assessed grade. If two or more students are almost indistinguishable in terms of their subject performance then it may be very difficult to put them into a rank order. However, exam boards are requiring schools to provide a single rank order for all students. Tied ranks cannot be provided.

The rank order will be used by the exam boards in their standardisation of each school's results. If the exam board consider that the grades allocated by the school are, as a whole too low, they will alter the grades by moving students up grades. They will use the rank order provided by the school to identify the students to be moved up a grade. The process will operate in reverse if the exam board considers that allocation of the school's grades is too generous.

HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL

CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL, COWPER STREET, LONDON, EC2A 4SH

T: 020 7253 3741 | E: [info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) | W: [www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk](http://www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk)





# CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

## **Do the students need to complete any new work for the school to submit a grade?**

In line with the guidance, the school should not, and will not, be taking into account any work that was submitted, or requested to be submitted, after the 20<sup>th</sup> March. No student will be disadvantaged by not having been able to complete any work given out after schools were closed. In the case of non-examination assessment work, students will not be asked to complete their NEA work and the marks will not be needed to be submitted to exam boards.

## **Can the grades and rank order submitted by the school for a student be seen by the student or their parents/ carers?**

Ofqual is very clear that this information must remain confidential. It requires that teachers, or anyone else at the school should not be approached to provide grades or the rank order prior to the publication of the results.

## **When will I get my results?**

The dates for the release of exam results have been confirmed as the original dates that had been set:-

**A levels** -Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

**GCSEs** - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

Colleagues will be writing separately to Year 11 and Year 13 students in respect of the process for entry to the school's sixth form and other colleges, and how the UCAS process will operate.

## **Statistical Standardisation**

**The grades sent off by the School will not necessarily be the grades awarded to the students.** The exam boards will carry out a process of statistical standardisation in an attempt to ensure that there is a standardisation in the grades that are awarded across all schools nationally. This process will involve the exam boards considering the distribution of the school's grades in previous years and the prior attainment profile of our current students.

## **Can I take my exams another time?**

Ofqual have stated that students will have the opportunity to take the exams in the autumn of 2020. The higher of the two grades, the grade awarded in August and the grade achieved in the autumn, will be the official grade for the student.



# CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

## **The school's approach to the allocation of grades and rank order**

Each subject area has already collected all of the evidence that will be used for the determining of the grades and the rank order. The next stage is for the school to allocate the grades and rank orders. The school is very experienced in assessing work and in predicting exam outcomes. The grades and rank order produced will then be subject to a thorough checking process to ensure that they are an objective, fair, reasonable, realistic and carefully considered judgement of the grade for each student.

## **Further information**

The school has produced a policy that it will follow in the allocation of grades. This will soon be available on the school's website. All parents and students will be contacted personally over the next two weeks to ensure that they fully understand the process. You can also use the contacts below if you have any immediate questions.

Year 11 – Mr Dilley – [dilleym@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:dilleym@cfbs.islington.sch.uk)

Year 13 – Mr Barker – [barkerc@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:barkerc@cfbs.islington.sch.uk)

## **Year 11 and Year 13 work**

As per my letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, Year 11 and 13 are now completing their courses. From the 18<sup>th</sup> May, the students will be following a revision programme for the period of the exams. The result of this work will be that the students will have completed their programmes of study and they will also be in a good position to sit the exams in the autumn, if they choose to do so.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Brownhill  
Headteacher

HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL

CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL, COWPER STREET, LONDON, EC2A 4SH

T: 020 7253 3741 | E: [info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) | W: [www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk](http://www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk)

