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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

## **End of Year 11 Examinations and Assessments**

Following the Government announcement on school closures and the cancellation of summer exams last week, we have been awaiting further details from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual about examinations and how GCSE/A level courses will be certified and graded this year. At present, the following information has been released which can be read in full here: <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>.

### **The Process**

It is likely that schools and teachers will be asked for a judgement about the grade that they believe a student **would have received** had their examinations gone ahead. Student mock examination grades will only be part of the evidence required, as previous tracking point data, as well as non-exam assessments will be taken into account when making this judgement. The exam boards will then consider this alongside other own relevant data, including prior attainment (KS2 outcomes for Year 11). Students will then be issued with a calculated final grade in each subject before the end of July 2020. These results will carry the same weight as in any other year and will look the same as any other set of grades awarded to students in previous years.

Ofqual and the exam boards will contact schools directly to provide clear guidance on how schools and teachers can evidence judgements to ensure they are fair and robust. Ofqual will also ensure the distribution of grades nationally follows a similar pattern to that of previous years, so that students are not disadvantaged by these extraordinary circumstances.

The DfE has also stated that there may be an opportunity for students to sit subject examinations in the next academic year if they believe the calculated grade is not representative of their performance. Students will also have a right to appeal with examination boards if they do not believe the correct process has been followed.

### **Guidance for Students**

Although summer examinations have been cancelled, it is really important that students continue working hard in all subjects to ensure they are able to achieve their potential. The digital online learning and assessments set by staff will contribute towards teacher final grade judgements. Teachers will be providing regular online learning and assessments including practice exam questions that need to be submitted for marking and assessment.

Please support us in ensuring students continue to engage in all work that is set, including the completion of any outstanding coursework as a priority, as we may need as much evidence of progress, improvement and achievement as possible up until the summer.

It is important to highlight that the Government has made clear that students' destinations will not be affected by the current situation. All student applications and places offered in sixth form, college, apprenticeships or jobs will remain in place. All students nationally will be in the same position regarding this. If you would like to discuss your child's next steps further, please contact us at <https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/contact> and we will ensure you are directed to the appropriate individuals to support you with your queries.

Please be assured that the UKAT Sixth Form is ready to support all of our students in accessing further study, and we have communicated recently that our conditional offers will still apply for this September 2020, with all achieved grades considered as normal. Should your child not quite meet the entry requirements, our staff and Sixth Form Team will be available to support and discuss possible options and pathways for our students and their families.

We appreciate that there are still many questions, which are unanswered at this stage, but we feel it is important to keep parent, carers and students updated as information becomes available.

We will keep you regularly updated once we have confirmation, information and plans from the Department for Education regarding course completion and certification this year.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Kind regards,

Sam Shillitoe - Associate Assistant Principal - Year 11

#### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

From time to time we may use your personal information to communicate newsletters or marketing information about events, products and services offered by the school which we feel are relevant to you. We will communicate marketing information to you on the basis of "legitimate interest" due to your current relationship with the school. You will find further information about how we use your personal information in our Data Privacy Notice by visiting <http://www.chathamgirlsgrammar.medway.sch.uk/privacy-parents/>. Should you wish to opt out of receiving these communications at any time you can do so by contacting the school office via email: [officeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:officeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk)

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