

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Year 13 - A-Level Grade Information

We are sure you have been reading the news and announcements on A level grades. This link takes you straight to the information from the UK Government and we would encourage you to read this carefully as it explains how A level grades will be calculated. We think you may also find this press release (Friday 20th March) informative.

We know that this is a potentially worrying time for our Year 13 students. We would like to reassure you that our input into final grades is not simply based on one measurement (such as mock grades) and that we will be expected to factor in a wide range of data. Important within this is the explicit mention of NEA coursework. We would therefore ask students to continue to adhere to the internal deadlines shared by class teachers for completion of non-examined assessment work.

To support this – Year 13 students are encouraged to check Show My Homework each Wednesday as well as their emails as teachers will be using both lines of communication.

The Government has indicated that we will receive clear guidance on the information required from schools and how to provide it. This data will then be subject to external standardisation. This is to ensure fairness and a similar spread of grades to those achieved Nationwide in recent years. It is clear from the announcement that prior attainment data will be factored in at exam board level.

Students will be able to appeal the process to determine their individual grade and if they remain unhappy at this point they could elect to sit the examinations at an "early opportunity". More information is promised to schools about this by the end of April and as soon as we have any further information we will share this with you.

UCAS has stated that the admissions system will continue as normal and that no rash decisions to accept unconditional offers or firm up offers should be made. Students should take their time and make the right choice based on the factors that are appropriate to them. Applications for student finance and for university accommodation should proceed as normal too.

Finally, can I say that we are extremely proud of our Year 13 students and we are determined to do our utmost to allow them to move on successfully to the next chapter in their lives. We will be in touch again as soon as we receive further clarity from the DfE.

With our best wishes,

Miriam Oakley

Dan Kirby