

April 27th 2020

Dear Parents,

Centre Assessed Grades

Balcararras has worked with its governors and following guidance from Ofqual developed a strategy for how GCSE, AS, A Level and vocational centre assessed grades will be provided to exam boards by the school.

I am writing to outline this strategy to you and your child.

The centre assessment grades submitted by Balcararras for a student will be, in the judgement of the school, the most likely grades a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams and completed any non-exam assessment.

Determining a Student Grade

Grades will be determined by subject teachers. Where a student has more than one teacher in a subject these teachers will work together to determine the centre assessment grade. NQTs and less experienced teachers will be guided by their head of subject.

This will be a holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence.

The centre assessment grade will not be a target grade or a grade based only on predictions made using prior assessment data.

The centre assessment grade will not use any work completed after the school closure (20th March) unless there has been specific guidance to do so.

Following guidance from Ofqual:

- Staff will not be able to share the grades awarded with students or parents.
- Staff will not be able to enter into discussions with pupils or parents about specific grades.

Ranking Students

All students awarded the same grade for a particular course will need to be given an individual ranking. No two students given the same grade in a subject can have the same rank. Subject leaders will work with their departments to ensure this ranking process is fair and consistent.

Statistical Standardisation

The exam boards will use a statistical model to standardise the grades awarded.

In order to reduce any alteration of the centre assessment grades submitted by Balcararras once teaching staff and heads of subject have submitted grades they will be analysed to ensure they are in line with expectations based on previous year's results and the current cohorts prior attainment profile.

Results Days

The results days for both GCSE and A Level remain the same:

- A Level – Thursday 13th August
- GCSE – Thursday 20th August

Appeals

Ofqual are yet to publish full guidance on the appeals process. We will make this information available to parents and pupils once they do so.

Year 11 Going Forward

The school will continue to set tasks for pupils in Year 11 until the school closure ends. Pupils should complete tasks in subjects they intend to take for A Level or in areas that may help with other post 16 aspirations. The intention is that these tasks keep pupils engaged in education.

Year 12 Going Forward

Tasks will continue to be set during the school closure. These tasks will cover content of AS and then A Level courses. Students should complete these tasks in all of their subjects (including those they intend not to continue with next year).

Year 13 Going Forward

Once the A Level content has been completed this marks the end of the course. We will continue to support students as they make decisions about next year but no further tasks will be set.

I know that there will be a great sense of disappointment amongst many that years of hard work should end without the chance to complete the exam. However, given the situation we are in I think Ofqual and the DfE have made the only decision possible. I can promise you that Balcarras will do everything we can to make sure that the process is fair and consistent.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher