



27 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Cancellation of GCSE Examinations for Summer 2020

As most of you will know by now, the government has taken the unprecedented decision to cancel all GCSE and equivalent examinations this summer for students in Year 11.

The government has published some information which helps us to understand how GCSE grades will be awarded. There is still quite a lot of detail to be determined, however, and many factors which have to be considered before the exam bodies will publish grades.

I have copied below a summary of the key points so far:

- Grades will be based on a range of factors, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be the same for all schools. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work.
- The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. For these to be produced, teachers will consider a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be the best assessment of the work they have put in.
- We are not simply awarding students their predicted grades. There will be a fair process that looks at a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment and prior attainment.
- Ofqual will carefully consider how to ensure the process is as fair as possible, which is likely to include considering measures that reflect how much progress a student would have been likely to have made at the school they are attending.
- If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case, they will be able to appeal. Also, if they do not feel their grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as possible once schools open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

So, because the finer details are not yet clear, teachers do not know precisely how the grades will be calculated. We are already working with the teachers of all Year 11 students and putting together evidence to support the awarding of the right grades, which reflect the effort and performance of your children up until this point.

The situation is far from ideal, but because of the Coronavirus pandemic, there really are few options available. Can I ask that parents/carers and students **do not** contact us about your grades at this time, and most certainly do not contact teachers about the grades they are going to submit for our students.

That said, it is vital that students in Year 11 continue to work over the period of the closure.

Creating possibilities through alternative education



Although this is not leading to any final GCSE examination, those students whose predicted grades are not currently an accurate reflection of the grades they are hoping to achieve, will need to be able to show that they have accelerated their learning over this period.

For some students who have not worked as hard as they can to this point, it is essential to step up their learning at home so that we can have confidence in the grades we submit to the exam boards for consideration.

Next step applications - college/apprenticeship applications

If you have not yet submitted your application for college and did not speak to Stef or Ash in the few days before school was closed, please make sure you contact them via email to arrange support for the application process. stef.smith@cpriverside.co.uk or ash.anderson@cpriverside.co.uk

Year 11 Celebration Event

It is tradition that we gather annually with Year 11 parents and commissioners, to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11. This year should be no different. I am confident that we will be able to gather for a celebration event once the school has re-opened, but you must appreciate that nobody knows for sure when that will be. As soon as we have an outcome to this current situation, I will be in touch with an invitation to such a celebration event.

I wish you all well for the coming months. I and our Leadership Team will do our best to keep you updated as and when things are passed onto me. Please keep an eye on our school website for announcements at www.cpriverside.co.uk

In the meantime, my very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona K Derrick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light pink rectangular background.

Fiona Derrick
Principal