



8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Re: Centre Assessed Grades – Update on the impact for students in different year groups and next steps**

Dear Students, Parents and Carers of Years 9-13

I am sure that you will now be broadly aware of the processes put in place by the government and Ofqual in response to the cancellation of Summer 2020 examinations and the on-going partial closure of schools. There have however, been several consultations and adjustments over the weeks since the original announcement, and so I write today with the hope of offering some clarity for affected students.

In the first instance, Centre Assessed Grades were limited to students who would be completing qualifications in the summer of 2020, however it has since been confirmed that any unit(s) from partially completed qualifications will also be included in the process. The table below aims to explain the range of possible scenarios and how students at St Mary's College might be affected:

Scenario	Year groups generally impacted	Explanation
GCSE or A-Level qualification which would have completed in Summer 2020.	10 – English Lang/Humanities/Option A 11 – All remaining GCSE qualifications 12 - GCSE courses 13 – All remaining A-Level qualifications	A single overall Centre Assessed Grade for each individual subject will be submitted by the school. This will be considered by exam boards as part of a national standardisation / moderation process. A final grade will be allocated for each student.
Vocational qualification that would have completed in Summer 2020.	10 – Option A vocational courses 11 – All remaining vocational qual's 12 - Vocational 1 year programmes 13 – All remaining vocational qual's	Vocational subjects have a slightly nuanced requirement in that several elements of qualifications may have already been completed and submitted. Schools will only submit Centre Assessed Grades for any internal units not already submitted. Exam boards will use this information to allocate an overall outcome.
Vocational qualification that would not have completed in Summer 2020 but for which any unit(s) have work have not been possible to complete during school closures.	9 / 10 / 12  Any vocational courses due to be completed at the end of <u>next</u> academic year (Summer 2021)	If a student is in the middle of a vocational course, then any <u>unit(s)</u> that would have been completed <u>before</u> the end of the Summer term 2020 (including external assessments), will be allocated a Centre Assessed Grade. This means that when students return to school and to their courses, they will <b>not</b> have to complete those missed submissions of work. Exam boards will wait until further assessments have taken place next year before moderating Centre Assessed Grades for these units.

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Mr D Perry





## ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Unfortunately, as explicitly directed by Ofqual and the Department for Education, College staff are not permitted under any circumstances, to share or discuss details of Centre Assessed Grades with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside of the organisation. Therefore, can I ask that you do not contact the school or any individual teachers about the grades that have been provided. It is important to note that our contribution is only the start of a process and any data we provide is subject to adjustment as part of national moderation and standardisation.

I hope that it will reassure parents to remind you of the government commitment, 'that no child should be disadvantaged by the cancellation of examinations'. We must therefore trust that the allocation of grades, in line with the guidance set out by Ofqual, will be fair and equitable. Both have made it clear that the previous performance of individual schools will be considered alongside the national performance of students in any given academic year.

If you have any further questions, then you will find all information regarding the awarding of grades on the DfE website. Please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>.

**Exams Results Days** - It has now been announced that exam results will be made available to students on the originally planned dates; **Year 13:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 **Year 11:** 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

It is not clear at this stage how results will be shared but regrettably we will not be able to provide the results day experience students might have normally expected. As soon as we have a clearer idea of how the process will be administered, we will be in touch with Year 11 and 13 families. Arrangements for all other year groups in terms of receiving results will also be confirmed in due course but will be broadly consistent with any other year for us at St Mary's. Please note that the above dates will be protected to prioritise support for students moving on to the next phase of their education, employment or training to ensure that we mitigate any possible disadvantage in terms of available opportunities.

I do hope that this communication clarifies the position with respect to the grade allocation process, and what to expect moving forward. I urge all our students to maximise the opportunities presented to you, and search for the positives at this difficult and uncertain time. If you haven't already engaged as fully as you could have in any aspect of the St Mary's provision, or any other organisations that have reached out to prepare you for next steps in September, now is the time. Be committed, be confident, be compassionate and in the spirit of St Mary's be unrelenting in your desire to be the very best you can be.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry - **Head of School**

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