



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

20th April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, the government has taken the decision not to go ahead with this summer's GCSE, A-level and technical/vocational examinations. They have also recently announced details of the process that will be in place in relation to awarding students in **Year 11, Year 12 Level 2 Health and Social Care** and **Year 13** with grades for the qualifications they have been studying.

1. Teachers will provide an estimate of the grade they believe each student would have achieved if they had taken their exams this year. When doing this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence including students' performance in mock exams and the quality of their classwork.
2. These provisional grades will then go through an external standardisation process by the exam boards, to ensure that grades are comparable between different institutions. This will help to make sure that the grades awarded to students have equal status to the grades awarded in previous years and that they are treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers.
3. Schools will not share these provisional grades with students or parents/carers. Please do not ask teachers about the estimated grades because they are not allowed to discuss this with you.
4. Once the grades have been standardised, they will officially be awarded and will then be shared with students and with parents/carers. Results will be released for **Year 13 on Thursday 13th August**, and **Year 11 and Y12 Level 2 Health and Social Care on Thursday 20th August**. Further information regarding results release will follow in due cause.
5. Once students have received their grades they will have four options:
 - Accept the grades they have been awarded
 - Appeal the grades
 - Attempt to improve their grades by taking an examination at the start of the academic year (i.e. in September/October 2020)
 - Attempt to improve their grades by taking an examination at the end of the next academic year (i.e. in May/June 2021)

During the summer term, all students will continue with their remote learning guided by their class teachers. The priority for Year 11 and Year 13 students is to ensure that they are awarded grades that reflect their achievement and that they are ready for progression to education, employment or training. Tasks will be set for them which lead to these outcomes, so Year 11 and 13 students must continue to access and complete their work that is set for them.

With these aims in mind, as well as work that is directly linked to their courses, teachers will provide students with:

- Projects that give students the opportunity to develop their wider knowledge and skills.
- Recommendations for things to read, watch and listen to, that will help them to prepare for their next steps in education.



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Students in **Year 10** and **Year 12** will continue learning remotely using the online and paper-based resources that have been provided by the school. The government have not yet announced whether students in these year groups who were due to take exams in their technical and vocational courses this summer will be provided with estimated grades from teachers or whether they will sit these exams during the next academic year. As soon as we have this information, I will share it with you.

Please be assured that, during the summer term, teachers will do everything they can to ensure that students are supported to continue with their learning. Subject teams are also creating plans for the autumn term to support students in Year 10 and Year 12 to catch up with any work that they have missed as a result of the closure period.

We are aware there will continue to be some anxiety amongst students and parents/carers about the awarding of grades this summer; unfortunately, given the current situation, this is inevitable. We are confident that teachers at Mulberry UTC know their students well and that they will take a range a wide range of evidence into account when calculating students' grades, to ensure that no one is disadvantaged.

Please see the website below for further information: www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email to discuss them (rchristofides@mulberryschoolstrust.org).

Yours sincerely,

Ms R Christofides
Assistant Principal