



7 April 2020

Dear students, parents and carers

Re: Ofqual announcement

The government has recently released more information about the awarding of qualifications for this summer's GCSE examinations. I have attached a letter from Ofqual, the regulator for exams, but I wanted to write to you in person to make sure that you understand how grades will be awarded this summer.

Students who were due to sit GCSE exams this summer will receive a **calculated grade**. The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, as well as other factors such as prior attainment, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges so that no particular group of students is disadvantaged.

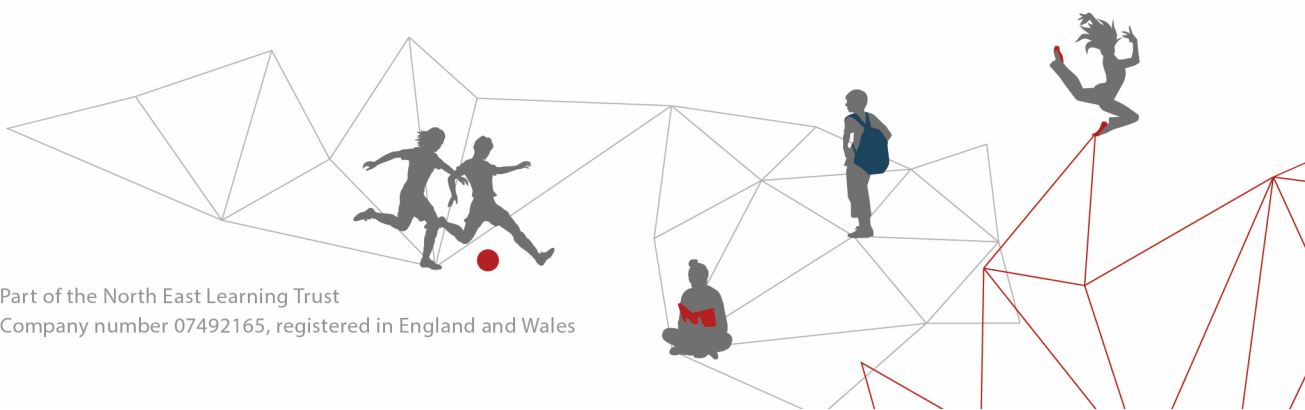
Teachers will be asked to provide exam boards with 'centre assessment grades' for students in each subject. These will be based on what teachers believe each student would have achieved had they sat the exams this summer. Teachers will take classwork, non-examined components, coursework and mock exam results, where appropriate, into account.

It is important for students to know that they will not be asked to complete any additional work or mock exams to inform these grades. However, it is important that they continue to study to help prepare for their next steps, and we will continue to set work which is appropriate to support them in this.

We must also emphasise that Ofqual has told schools that these centre assessment grades need to be confidential, and that teachers will not be allowed to share these grades with students. Therefore, **please do not ask us for these grades**.

Ofqual will look at the centre assessment grades from schools alongside a range of other information and will decide what the final calculated grades for each student should be. They are working hard with exam boards to make sure that the grades awarded are fair. Ofqual has said they would like to reassure students that the grades they will get will look the same as they have for students in previous years, and these grades will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, so that students can move forward with their future steps as they have planned.

Students will get their final calculated grades in the summer. Ofqual has said that results will be announced no later than the planned results day in August (20th August), but they are aiming to be able to provide grades earlier than this. They, like us, know that



the sooner students know their grades, the better. We will let you know as soon as we have any confirmation of the dates on which grades will be announced.

There will be an appeal process for students who feel that the calculated grades they are awarded by Ofqual do not reflect the grade they would have achieved had they sat the exams. Ofqual have also said that there will be an opportunity for these students to sit exams in the Autumn Term as part of the appeals process. This is another reason why students should continue to work from home at this time. More information on these processes will follow from Ofqual, and we will keep you updated as soon as we hear anything. Likewise, we will let you know as soon as we have more information about how BTEC and other vocational grades will be awarded, as this has not yet been confirmed by Ofqual. Students should continue to follow the guidance from their subject teachers for these qualifications to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

These are unusual times for us all, and I appreciate that many questions remain. However, I hope that this letter provides some level of clarity about how the process will work this summer for awarding exam grades. Please be assured that we are working hard to keep you informed and to support students in moving forward. If you have any questions, please use the enquiries@easingtonacademy.co.uk email address to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Nicola Hickman

Head of School