

Dear Parent,

I am writing to you to outline the expectations for our Year 11 students over the remaining months in this academic year.

As I am sure you are aware there has been a great deal of uncertainty over the cancellation of the summer exams and we have received many emails from students as well as parents asking for clarification about what they should be doing and what is going to happen with regard to awarding grades in the summer.

We have today received the guidance from Ofqual (The office of Examination and Qualifications Office). The guidance outlines a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment, mock examination data, NEA assessments and prior attainment to award grades to students. Ofqual has worked to ensure that the process agreed does not disadvantage any particular group of students.

Ofqual has now released the protocol for calculating and awarding grades and details are below:

- Exam boards will ask Copleston to generate, for each subject, the assessment grades for their students.
- The assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.
- So that the final grades awarded are as fair as possible, exam boards will standardise the judgements across different schools once they have been submitted, using a statistical methodology developed in conjunction with Ofqual. This will take into account the past performance of the school, which stands Copleston in good stead, as we have been a strong performing school over the last four years.
- Judgements should be based on records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE, where already undertaken. Ofqual will also look at performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.
- Grades will be standardised based on
 - expected grade distributions at national level
 - results in previous years at individual centre level
 - the prior attainment profile of students at centre level
- The aim is then for Ofqual to provide these calculated grades to students as scheduled in August or even earlier. These grades will be formal grades and carry the same legal status as grades awarded in previous years.
- In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be the same as those provided in other years and the distribution of grades will follow a similar pattern to that in other years, so that students do not face a disadvantage because of these extraordinary circumstances.
- Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

Ofqual have made it clear that students' exam grades will be based on the work completed before the school closure. However, we do encourage students to continue to access work uploaded by the teachers on Share Point across all subjects, and not just subjects that have a coursework element or they wish to pursue post 16. As this will put them in good stead for the future. Especially for those students who would like to go through the appeals process and might want to sit the exams in a particular subject in the autumn term or summer 2021

It is important to reiterate that the school does not have the authority to just allocate a student their final grade and that we will have provide both Ofqual and the Department for Education with concrete evidence on how we have arrived at the grade we have given. Therefore, it is vital that Year 11 students are engaging with all of their subjects and complete programmes of study.

Below is a link to a message from Ofqual for students and parents/carers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Students should have received your Sixth Form offer letter via your school email. Moreover, we hope that they have checked that the subjects on the letter are correct and let Mr D Leach know if there are any errors. In order to accept or decline their place, please log into Parent mail, where you will find a simple form for you to complete and return, if you have not already done this.

If you have any questions regarding the Sixth Form or the offer letters, please do not hesitate to contact Mr D Leach via the school email system.

In addition to this, all A level subjects have now uploaded a bank of pre A level work for students to engage with in preparation for their Sixth Form studies in September 2020. It is vital that students engage with this work at this crucial phase of their education and when they are about to follow their chosen career path. This work will provide them with a solid foundation for the courses they wish to pursue and enable them to commence their chosen A level courses with confidence.

There are several checkpoints within this pre A level work for each subject and students should be sending in their feedback to the course leaders at these checkpoints. The contact details for the course leaders can be found on the Key Staff document within the Year 11 Pre A Level Work folder.

I hope this clarifies our expectations for Year 11 students regarding remote learning over remaining few months of Year 11 and our advice on progression into post 16 courses.

As stated by Ofqual, teachers are not allowed to discuss estimated grade with students. Please be assured that we will be using the criteria that Ofqual have given us and that this will be fair and equitable for all our students.

Yours sincerely
Mr A Green
Principal