

**HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY  
HEADTEACHER**

Mr Angus Neal



**Teece Drive  
Priorslee  
Telford  
Shropshire  
TF2 9SQ**



Email: [holytrinity@taw.org.uk](mailto:holytrinity@taw.org.uk)

Telephone (01952) 386100

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Dear students, parents and carers,

I am writing to you with details on the arrangements to award exam grades this summer.

The chief regulator has written to all students. I have attached a copy of this letter.

There are some key points in the letter that I would like to draw your attention to;

- Ofqual are very clear that the information that we present to boards regarding student's grades is highly confidential. Please do not ask your teachers about these grades.
- Whilst we would encourage all students to complete the work that will be set for them until 8th May so that they are as prepared as they can be for their next stage in learning, any work produced after 20<sup>th</sup> March will not be used to inform judgements about grades.
- Your teachers will work together to decide the **most likely grade** that the student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment with learning and exams happening as planned. We will use the wealth of information that we have including previous assessments, classwork and homework and comparisons with previous years to decide on the most likely grade.
- Ofqual has asked that your teachers then rank students within a grade. This is because Ofqual may change the grade that is submitted for you if the statistical analysis of school submissions suggests that a school has been unusually generous or restrained in its grading. The students' published grades may, therefore, differ from the ones we submit to the exam boards. If Ofqual decide to adjust grades downwards, then those who are lowest ranked at a particular grade are likely to have their grade reduced (e.g, the lowest ranked pupils on grade 7 could fall to grade 6); conversely, if Ofqual adjust grades upward, then it is most likely to affect those who are highest ranked (e.g, the highest ranked pupils on grade 6 could rise to grade 7). If the school's grades are increased and you are ranked highly, your grade may improve. If the school's grades are decreased and you are ranked lowly, your grade may decrease.
- Our grades will be based on the assumption that the students would have had their normal access arrangements, e.g. extra time or use of a word processor.

We all appreciate that this is a stressful time for students but I hope the above reassures you that we will be able to submit fair examination grades for all of our students to the exam boards, drawing on the full range of relevant information at our disposal.

Yours sincerely

Mr Angus Neal  
Headteacher



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY



DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD



GCSE, AS and A level students in England

3 April 2020

### **A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer**

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

#### **How will grades be calculated?**

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when

making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

**Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?**

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

**Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?**

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

**I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?**

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

**When will I get my results?**

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

**Can I take my exams another time?**

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new

information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

**Sally Collier**  
Chief Regulator, Ofqual