



5 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you in light of the announcement of a decision from Ofqual this morning regarding the allocation of Year 10 grades.

The detail can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-initial-decisions-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020> but in essence the statement reads;

“In line with our consultation proposal, we have decided that students entered for exams in year 10 and below will be eligible to receive calculated grades this summer. This follows the majority of responses received, which indicate that the progression of some students would be disrupted if they were not awarded a grade this summer, and to exclude them would have an unfair impact.”

I am delighted that our letter, which was taken as part of the consultation and on which we received strong feedback has contributed to the outcome. This was undoubtedly reinforced by the articulate and powerful responses submitted by many parents and supporters of the College. Thank you for all that you did to this effect, it is another testament to the powerful community that Heathfield represents when we work together.

To this end, Curriculum Leaders have already been including Year 10 grades in the same process as the Year 11 Centre Assessed Grades and this will hopefully represent a continuation of the work they are already doing to meet the deadlines and requirements we will receive from the examination boards.

It is important to restate at this point the strict guidance that has been released around this process. Parents and students must not communicate with staff about the grades being submitted, it has been made very clear that any evidence of this would be treated as malpractice and jeopardise the outcomes for the whole cohort. This is to ensure due process and that no students are able to unfairly benefit or be disadvantaged by the pressure of lobbying.

Staff will now cease setting work for Year 10 students in the subjects in which they would be taking exams which of course will help to ease the workload for staff and



students. Students should consider retaining all of their revision materials and notes for any subjects that they may consider taking further to A Level after they have completed all of their GCSE's next year. They should now focus their attentions on their other subjects.

Students should also be congratulated on their work ethic up to this point. Continuing to work when you are unsure what you are working towards is hard and shows the integrity and ambition of our students that they managed to keep focused up to this point.

We have been told that Results Day will be the same as planned for Thursday 20 August and that is what we will be working towards, although of course we will not know yet whether we will be able to operate that event as 'normal' or subject to distancing.

In conclusion I would like to thank Year 10 parents and students particularly alongside anyone who submitted a response to the consultation, I am very proud of what our community has managed to effect to the benefit of our students in 2020.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher