



15 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide you with an update on the correspondence I have been engaged in with Ofqual regarding the Year 10 exams series of 2020. I have received the following response to my letter:

Thank you very much for your letter. Our apologies for only now having an opportunity to reply, we are receiving a large volume of correspondence in these unprecedented circumstances.

We understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you and your students, following the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer. Our over-riding aim in our approach to awarding this year is to be as fair as possible to students this summer and to make sure they are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

The Guidance for GCSEs, AS and A level awarding: summer 2020, which was published on 3 April, does indeed outline our proposal that exam boards will not issue grades for students in year 10 or below (unless students have been officially moved up a school year). However, we will be shortly consulting on this issue. The consultation will open on the Ofqual website very soon for all those who wish to submit their views. With your permission, we would like to pass your letter on to the team who will be conducting this consultation so that your views can feed into it directly. Would that be okay? We will carry out a full analysis of the responses received and this will inform our decisions.

I provide this full text in light of the fact that we have received considerable support for our approach from parents, including enquiries relating to whether the College would establish a petition. This is not something the College would undertake; our grant-funded status requires a more formal approach to any lobbying. However, I take some encouragement from the request to include our letter as part of the consultation to which I will respond positively.

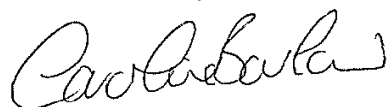
Once the consultation launches, I would encourage all parents who are concerned about this matter to engage. It is very important to note that consultations by a government body treat duplicate or identical submissions as one response. If we are to secure a



weight of pressure, each response must be individual and different. Once released, we can signpost it to parents and provide advice about the kind of points you may wish to make if open text is part of the format but we cannot provide a pre-written draft for parents to use.

We will continue to appraise you of any further information regarding this matter, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher