



# Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

## Dayspring Trust



Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745 Fax: 0191 523 9775

Email: venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk Website: www.venerablebede.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

25 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 pupils,

### RE: GCSE Examination update

The Department of Education have now released information regarding GCSE examinations. They have stated that the exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to pupils whose exams have been cancelled this summer.

Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their pupils best, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe pupils would have received if exams had gone ahead. To produce this, teachers will consider a range of evidence. We are waiting for clear guidance, which will be provided to schools, to ensure this is done fairly and robustly. Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each pupil, which will be a best assessment of the work they have completed during their GCSE course. The aim is for the Department of Education to provide these calculated grades to pupils before the end of July. As the formula which is going to be used to calculate grades is not yet known, pupils should not ask teachers to say what grade they are going to predict for them. It is likely that teacher predictions are only part of the process.

The Department of Education has guaranteed that the grades awarded will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years so pupils are not disadvantaged because of these extraordinary circumstances. Furthermore, they have also stated that there will be an option for Year 11 pupils to sit an exam early in the next academic year at your Post-16 provider for those who wish to do so, should they feel the grade awarded, based on the Department of Education's calculation, does not reflect their ability. These exams, whatever they may be, are optional. For those who want to complete these, we suggest you continue your studies as normal so that you are fully prepared.

We are committed to ensuring that pupils at Venerable Bede CE Academy achieve the best possible results in these unprecedented times. Work for pupils to complete, for all subjects, is available via the 'Resources' page of our Academy website or via the following link: [LINK TO HOME LEARNING](#)

We recommend pupils take this opportunity as a way of continuing to provide teachers with evidence to support the overall assessment grades they will be asked to submit as well as preparing for the next phase of education and/or employment.



We will continue to share any new information that is given to us, as it is released, and the actions we are taking to support our pupils.

May we also take this opportunity to thank both you, and your child(ren), for the way you have responded so supportively to this situation. We will ensure that the best interests of all our pupils are fully represented in future decisions and actions.

If you have any queries, please contact us via the 'Contact Us' page of the school website, (which can also be found by clicking this link: [LINK TO CONTACT US PAGE](#)), and we will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs T Burgess  
Deputy Headteacher

