



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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23 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 pupils,

RE: GCSE Examination update

The Department for Education (DfE) and the exam regulator, Ofqual, have now released some further information regarding Summer 2020 examinations. The first piece of key information, is that the DfE have confirmed that GCSE results will now be given to all pupils on **Thursday 20th August 2020**.

As you know, exam boards have asked schools, based on teachers' professional judgement, for the grades they believe pupils would have received if exams had gone ahead. To produce this, the guidance provided by the DfE asks teachers to consider a range of evidence including classwork, bookwork, any non-exam assessment such as coursework (whether completed or not), results of mocks exams and records of each pupil's performance over the course of study. The process of collating information to finalise our centre assessed grades is underway. Teachers will not be able to accept any additional work from pupils for consideration. We are also unable to include emails and statements from private tutors in our judgements but we are sure that this support will undoubtedly be reflected in the progress teachers have observed and recorded over time.

Once we have submitted centre assessed grades, exam boards will combine this information with other data, including prior attainment, to produce a calculated grade for each pupil. Exam board standardisation will be based on a statistical model to align judgements nationally which means that the centre assessment grades we submit and the final grade pupils receive could be different.

Please also be aware that we have been instructed by the DfE that we are NOT able to share any grades with you; they are to remain confidential until pupils receive their GCSE grades in the summer. We understand how frustrating this is for you and your child(ren) but please be assured that we are committed to ensuring that pupils of Venerable Bede CE Academy achieve the best possible results in these unprecedented times. We will do everything we can to ensure that the best interests of all our pupils are fully represented in the decisions we are asked to make and any actions we take.



May we take this opportunity to thank both you, and your child(ren), for the way you have responded so supportively to this situation. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me via email (tracey.burgess@venerablebede.co.uk) and I will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs T Burgess
Deputy Headteacher



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A Pupil's Guide to Exam Grades: Summer 2020

How will your exam grades be awarded this summer?



The school will give the exam board a **centre assessed grade** – the grade we think you would have achieved in the summer.

It will be based on classwork, homework, NEAs, mock examinations and records of your performance over the course of study.

The Government have asked us not to request any further assessment work or coursework from you.



The school will also have to **rank** all pupils' grades e.g. who is most likely to get a Grade 5 and who is least likely to get a Grade 5.

The Government have told us that we are not allowed to share this information with you.



The exam board will use this information to award you a grade.

They will also look at how well the school did last year and how well you did in your Key Stage 2 SATs alongside the national trend in performance of pupils with the same Key Stage 2 scores as you.

The exam board might change the centre assessed grade that we have given them based on these factors.

What happens then?



You will get your results on Thursday 20th August 2020.

This is the date that you would have received your GCSEs had things gone ahead.



You will be able to use your results to go on to access your post-16 courses in the normal way.

The results you get will be treated the same as exam results from previous years.



If you are unhappy with your results, you will be able to appeal. We don't have any specific details about this yet, but we will keep you informed.

Alternatively, you will be able to sit exams for real in the Autumn. Again, we don't have any specific details about this yet.