

# BRYANSTON

20 March 2020

Dear parents of B pupils,

As you will have heard today from the Secretary of State, the government has clarified the process that will lead to the awarding of GCSE grades this year. The awarding body regulator, Ofqual, will confirm the details of this process, but the new, calculated grade will draw on a number of sources of information held by schools on their pupils. The full statement can be read [here](#).

We will be taking a number of factors into account before sending the required information on. Above all, we have to ensure that the grades we predict are fair for all, and are fully reflective of current achievement levels. We also have to estimate expected progress that is likely to have been made between the mocks and final examinations. The Secretary of State makes it clear that prior attainment will also be taken into consideration in determining the calculated grade.

Over the last two years we have collected a lot of data about our pupils, including effort and achievement grades, internal assessments, predicted grades and, where applicable, coursework marks. Each of these will be considered before we submit grades to Ofqual. I am sure that Ofqual will seek to ensure, wherever possible, that historical school data, averaged out, does not suddenly see sharp rises at this point. Most schools' academic results over a short period of time remain broadly stable, and this is another factor we have to be aware of before submitting the grade. The aim is to have grades confirmed by Ofqual by the end of July.

The Secretary of State also announced that pupils will be able to take examinations as soon as schools open again. We would strongly urge that pupils in B take these examinations for several reasons. Firstly, some pupils will be disappointed with the grades they receive, and this will give them the opportunity to improve on them. Secondly, many of our pupils have commented on how disappointed they were that they would not be given the chance – like every other year group – to prove that they have worked hard. Examinations offer an objective evaluation of achievement, and this is not to

be underestimated in personal value. Lastly, we do not know how the new, calculated grade will be viewed in the future against the assessed examinations. It may be that they will be treated as indistinguishable; but future employers could see grades awarded through examinations as preferable.

Today's announcement means that our B pupils need to keep working over the Summer term. As the Headmaster has already said, we aim to provide a full and rich online programme for all our pupils. We will, of course, be happy to offer all our pupils the opportunity to take these new examinations in Bryanston, whether they are current Bs going into A3, or those in A2 who are moving on to the next stage of their academic careers. We will support you and your children wherever possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,

**Dr David James**

*Deputy Head Academic*