

3rd April 2020

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students, Parents and Carers

Examination Grading 2020

As promised, I am writing to update you following the latest announcement on how grades will be awarded following the cancellation of 2020 summer examinations due to Covid-19.

Today we learned from Ofqual how Furze Platt Senior School teachers have been asked to grade and rank students who are entered for GCSE and A Level Qualifications (please note BTEC has not been confirmed yet). This information is available in the links below as a Letter to Students and Guidance for Teachers, Students, Parents and Carers written by Ofqual

<https://www.furzeplatt.com/attachments/download.asp?file=2723&type=pdf>

<https://www.furzeplatt.com/attachments/download.asp?file=2722&type=pdf>

While we all know that any alternatives to the examinations you have been working hard towards are not ideal, the guidance and letter do set out a good mechanism to resolve this unfortunate situation.

Having received this information shortly before midday you will appreciate that we are now in the process of communicating to staff and organising how we will rank and grade students who would have sat examinations this summer. However, you will note from the Ofqual documents that:

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

I am keen that all students get the grades that they deserve and have been working hard to attain. I will be encouraging teachers to be realistic but positive as they ascertain the ranking lists and calculated grades.

As in previous letters, I would encourage Year 11 and 13 students to look forward to the various courses or employment they will be studying next year. After Easter we will look to offer additional resources to support students with future BTECs, A Levels or degree courses.

Finally, I recognise that while we now know how the grades are to be calculated, there remains uncertainty as to what grade will be awarded. From all that I have read, I am confident that colleagues at Furze Platt and beyond want the best for you in these difficult times. They want you to be able to progress into sixth form, college, apprenticeships, employment and universities. Please be assured that all staff at Furze Platt Senior School will be working hard to reward your hard work and secure your future education or employment.

Take care and best wishes

Andrew Morrison

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