

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, we have promised to keep you updated as and when we receive any further details regarding how examination grades will be awarded to students this summer. Today, Ofqual has published further guidance in relation to this. The guidance provided so far relates to GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in Maths. Details about vocational and technical qualifications will be shared with you as soon as we receive further guidance.

The following link contains guidance for parents and students:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877842/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_EPQ\\_AEA\\_in\\_maths\\_-guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf)

In addition, Ofqual has published a letter to students and this can be found using the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877830/Letter\\_to\\_students\\_-\\_Summer\\_2020\\_grading.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf)

In addition to this, further guidance has been made available for Heads of Centre and School Leaders. As this has only just been released, we will need to study the detail very carefully over the coming days. We will be in touch again if we need to communicate any further important messages we think would be beneficial for students and parents. There is clearly a lot of detail for our staff to look at.

Some important points to clarify from the guidance:

- The Centre assessment grade (predicted grade) will be submitted by schools using a wide range of evidence collected over the duration of the course.
- The Exam Boards will stipulate how schools submit the Centre assessment grades and they will then use additional information and a process of standardisation to help them award a final grade.
- Schools have been specifically prohibited from sharing what Centre assessment grade has been awarded. **Please do not ask school staff for this information as we are not allowed to provide it.**
- Centres have specifically been instructed that students should not be asked to complete their NEA work (coursework) and that schools do not need to submit marks for any completed or uncompleted NEA (coursework).
- The date for publishing results has not been confirmed yet, but should be no later than the original results dates in August. Ofqual are hoping it might be earlier than this.
- Students who are dissatisfied with their results will have a right of appeal but this process has not been confirmed yet.
- Students who want to sit exams will be given the opportunity to do so, but no dates have been confirmed yet, and Ofqual are discussing the detail with Exam Boards.
- The earliest that school staff have been asked to submit Centre assessment grades is by 29<sup>th</sup> May. This gives teachers plenty of time to consider all of the information and to meet with colleagues and reach fair and accurate Centre assessment grades. Please be assured that we will be giving this process our utmost care and attention.

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## **Implications**

In light of this new guidance, it would be very helpful if students could return all of their work, books, folders and any completed assessments they may have, including coursework, whether this has been completed or not. Teachers are allowed to use all sources of work to help inform the Centre assessment grade. We obviously have a record of all formal assessments, tests and mock exams on our school database, but the physical work can be helpful for moderation in teams. **Please hand the work etc into the Main Office after the Easter Holidays, as the Main Office will not be manned during the Easter period.** If you are unable to deliver this to us, we will make every effort to collect it from you. If you need support with this, please contact Mr Bartlett (Year 11): [lbartlett@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:lbartlett@budmouth-aspirations.org) or Mr Henman (Year 13): [mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org).

The work that students are completing at home now as part of online learning is still important. Although work completed after 20<sup>th</sup> March will not count towards the Centre assessment grade, it will still be helpful for students to complete the learning for their courses and maintain a regular habit of study. If students decide that they want to take an exam next autumn, they will do themselves no favours by stopping all learning now. Just because it is not part of their final grade, does not mean it is not helpful.

For students who are coming back into our 6<sup>th</sup> Form in September, we will move towards setting work that is more specific in helping them bridge the gap to their next level of study e.g. preparing for A Levels. This will take place after the May Half Term.

We are well aware that some students are very keen to complete coursework, for its own sake. They have started something and understandably they want to see it through. This is admirable, however, the official guidance to schools on this matter is very clear. We therefore ask that any coursework is returned to school, so staff can use this as part of their overall decision-making on a Centre assessment grade. As is always the case, students are welcome to have their coursework returned to them after the awarding of results and appeals process have taken place.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I know there is a lot to take on board but as it is the last day of term, I did not want to wait until after the Easter Holiday before sharing the guidance received today.

If you have any specific queries during the Easter Holiday period Pete Hudson, Vice Principal, can be contacted via email: [phudson@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:phudson@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Yours sincerely



David Herbert