



Tring School

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27 March 2020

Dear Year 13 Students (and Parents)

I hope that you are all keeping well and observing the new social distancing requirements. The sooner we stop the spread of this virus, the sooner we can all return to something that resembles normality. I have been quite disturbed this week by the reports of the speed that the virus is spreading and also the impact on young lives, without any underlying health conditions as well as the elderly. Please act responsibly and make sure you are limiting your contact to your immediate family members only.

I am sure that many of you are now aware that on Friday of last week the Secretary of State for Education shared that students will not be required to complete their A Level examinations in May and June of this year. He confirmed that students would still be awarded grades based on academic data that will be collected from schools. There would be an opportunity for students to appeal any awarded grade by sitting an external exam in the next academic year but we are still unclear on how this will impact you given that many of you will have taken up your places at university. No further details are available on this as yet but when they are we will share them with you.

Today the Government has released the following information:

Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades. We are talking to teaching representatives to make sure that what we are planning is manageable and appropriate, so that students, parents, carers and teachers can have confidence in the approach.

We will outline by Easter the process we will follow to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as our proposals for appeals. We will also say more as soon as possible about the arrangements for additional exams in the new academic year.

We want to reassure students waiting for news that we are doing everything we can to make sure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances.

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Right now we think it is important for you to complete any outstanding written coursework and electronically share it with your class teacher as this may be used to influence your final awarded grade.

- Any further NEA work to be sent to class teachers by Friday 3 April (one week from today).
- BTEC assignments to meet the deadlines set out in your assessment framework.

Teachers of Year 13 BTEC courses will be in touch with their students to set out dates for final submission and any guidance around this.

Once we have clarification from the Government on how the grades are going to be calculated, I will be in touch with you again to offer further guidance.

Those of you applying to university may be unsure about how to proceed with selecting your Firm and Insurance choices for UCAS. For now, I would advise you to follow our previous guidance regarding this. I suggest waiting to make these choices until the UCAS deadline of 5 May. Waiting to make this choice will mean that you have all of the possible information and can make an informed decision. I suggest that you do not allow yourself to be swayed by universities making unconditional offers.

Please can I ask that you refrain from contacting your teachers directly regarding individual targets grades and teacher predictions. Any changes to these grades will need to be verified by substantive data to justify any change to the exam board. The Leadership Team will work very closely with Subject Leaders to ensure that a fair and transparent process is adhered to.

On a more positive note, I would like to remind you all of the message Mrs Collings shared during your last assembly: once schools are able to open again, we will run your summer ball celebrations and we will have your end of year assembly.

Please take care of yourselves and act responsibly.

Kind regards

Sally Ambrose
Head of School