



Tring School

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27 March 2020

Dear Year 11 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 GCSE and 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. No further details are available on this as yet; however, I suspect this will be around the time of the November resit series.

I have been advised that we will receive further information during next week, which will allow us to plan our response and share with you additional guidance.

It has been suggested that grades will be based on target / expected progress data which has been set using your KS2 SATs results, internal school performance data (i.e. Yr10 exams and Yr11 mock exam data), predicted grades based on your teachers' judgement of what level you are working at now and any completed NEA work.

Therefore, it is important for all students to ensure that any outstanding written coursework is submitted electronically to 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 11 BTEC courses will be in touch with their students to set out dates for final submission and any guidance around this.

I am aware that some students will be concerned by what is being proposed as they may feel that the GCSE target data and your performance in internal exams does not reflect your most recent performance levels. I know that many of you are now working beyond your target grades and were hopeful of achieving much improved grades as a result of recent hard work.

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Some students may also be concerned that the calculation will not demonstrate the required level of achievement to gain access onto our Sixth Form courses. Please be assured that we are working on a fair and transparent system which will allow you to demonstrate your current level of achievement in your core subjects as well as those you wish to continue to study at post 16.

My advice for students who wish to continue with A Level/ BTEC studies would be to continue to learn the material from your GCSE courses. We are looking at the possibility of an internal assessment for students who have not yet demonstrated they are working at the desired level of entry, as set out in our specific subject guidance.

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.

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 my message during our last assembly. Once schools are able to open again we will run your end of Year 11 celebrations. We will have your end of year assembly, there will be opportunities for photographs and more shirt signing and we will hold a Prom celebration.

Please take care of yourselves and act responsibly.

Kind regards

Sally Ambrose
Head of School