



TO CARE  
TO LEARN  
TO ACHIEVE

## BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College  
with Applied Learning  
Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Year 11 Students & Parents/Guardians

We have received a number of queries regarding qualifications and grades. This is understandable in these unexpected circumstances. Below are answers to the main questions being asked. Please read these carefully. These answers are based on the information provided so far by the Department for Education (DfE). Please be aware that teachers do not have any more information than this. Please continue to check the school website, where we will publish updated information as it becomes available.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### Should I still be completing school work?

- Yes.

#### Why should I continue to complete school work?

- As explained below, **your work may form part of the evidence submitted by school to exam boards**, as part of the process to award grades.
- Also, as explained below, the DfE has indicated that there will be an **opportunity to sit exams in the next academic year**. Although these will not be compulsory, you might decide to sit these exams if you think you can achieve higher grades than those awarded. For example, if the exam board awards you a Grade 4 in English Language, but you think you could achieve a Grade 5, you could choose to sit an exam to try to achieve the higher grade. For this reason, it is important to continue to prepare.
- Furthermore, whilst qualifications and grades are important, education is about more than this. It is about developing the knowledge, understanding, skills, and values that will help you in your future education, employment and life. Your secondary education has not yet been completed. It is important that you continue to learn.

#### What work should I be completing?

- You should complete the work being **set by your teachers** through Frog.
- In addition., some **colleges** are providing links to resources that will support your transition from secondary to post-16 education.
- Please check the websites of colleges you have applied to.

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### Will I sit any exams this summer?

- **No**, all exams scheduled for this summer have been cancelled.
- The DfE has indicated that there will be an opportunity to sit some exams later in the year. However, these exams will not be compulsory. It is not yet known when these exams will take place, but it will not be before the autumn term.

### Will I still be awarded qualifications?

- **Yes**. The Department for Education (DfE) has given an assurance that students will be awarded GCSE and other qualifications.

### What grades will I be awarded?

- You will be awarded a **calculated grade** in each subject in which you were entered.
- This calculated grade will be what the exam board thinks you were **most likely to achieve** if you had sat the final exams.
- The normal grade ranges will be used e.g. 9 to 1 in GCSEs, Pass/Merit/Distinction in Non-GCSEs etc.

### Who will decide what grades I am awarded?

- In each subject, the **exam board** will decide what grade you will be awarded. Exam boards include AQA, Edexcel, OCR etc.

### How will exam boards calculate my grades?

- Exam boards will ask schools to provide **evidence** of your performance.
- This may include marks in **mock or practice exams** and the standard of any **controlled assessment** work, along with **other evidence of your performance**.
- In courses where assessment units have already been completed, the marks achieved will be taken into account.
- Exam boards will use this evidence alongside other data to calculate grades. For example, exam boards will ensure that there are **comparable outcomes** with previous years. This means that, in each subject, the same % students nationally will achieve each grade.
- For instance, in 2019 in Maths, approximately 70% students in the country achieved a Grade 4 or above, approximately 50% achieved a Grade 5 or above, and approximately 20% achieved a Grade 7 or above. The DfE has given an assurance that the % students achieving each grade will remain similar in 2020.

### Will the calculated grades I am awarded be the same as the grades I achieved in the mock exams?

- **Not necessarily**. Performance in the mock exams will be taken into account, but only as part of a wider **range of evidence**.

**Will the calculated grades I am awarded be the same as the grades my teachers predicted at screening?**

- **Not necessarily.** The exams boards will take account a **range of evidence** provided by schools. However, the exam board will then decide what calculated grades are awarded.

**When will I find out what calculated grades I have been awarded?**

- Results Day was originally scheduled for 20th August. However, this is now unlikely to be the case.
- **The DfE has not yet given a date** when grades will be available. However, the DfE has stated that the aim is to provide grades as soon as is possible, and before the end of the summer.

**Will colleges accept my calculated grades?**

- **Yes.** Colleges have given assurances to students that calculated grades will have the same status as grades issued in any other year.

**What if I am unhappy or disagree with a calculated grade I have been awarded?**

- The DfE and exam boards have given assurances that calculated grades will be awarded fairly.
- If you believe that the correct **process** has not been followed, you will be able to **appeal** to the exam board.
- If you feel that the calculated grade awarded **does not reflect your performance**, there will be an opportunity to **sit an exam** instead.
- Details or dates of these exams are not yet known. All the DfE has said is that these will take place as soon as it is possible to organise them after schools and colleges have re-opened. The DfE has not yet specified whether these exams will be available in all or some subjects.

As soon as further information becomes available, we will share it with you.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Shelton  
Deputy Headteacher