3rd April 2020

Dear students, parents and carers

We understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. We wanted to let you know what The Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation (Ofqual) are going to do to provide you with grades. Their over-riding aim in all this is to be fair to all students this summer and to make sure they are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

**How will grades be calculated?**

Teachers at Eckington School will be asked to send the exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

• the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned

• within each subject, the order of students at our school, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges.

Your teachers will consider a range of things such as your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams/PPEs; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress throughout the course.

This information will allow Ofqual, together with the exam boards, to standardise grades across all schools and colleges. This will help to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their school or college has been more generous or harsh than others, when making those judgements. This means the final grade you are awarded could be different from the one Eckington School sends to the exam board.

**Do I need to complete any new work for my teacher before they submit a grade?**

Eckington School, or your teachers, are not required to set any additional mock exams/PPEs or homework, or indeed any other work, in order to decide on the assessment grade that will be forwarded to Ofqual and the examination boards. You will not be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete any work that was given out after the school was partially closed on Wednesday 18th March 2020.

**Can I see the grades that Eckington School submits for me?**

No, this information will be confidential. Please do not ask your teachers, or anyone else in school, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students. We are not allowed to share this information with parents or students. This is a directive from Ofqual.

**When will I get my results?**

Ofqual are working hard to get results out as soon as is possible. Results will not be delayed after the dates they were expected in August. These were 13th August 2020 for GCE examination results and 20th August for GCSE examination results. Ideally, they will be issued a little earlier, so you can all have the certainty you need.

**Can I take my exams another time?**

Ofqual are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term, as soon as it is possible to do so. You do not have to sit these exams, but you may wish to do so if you believe you could have done better than the grade awarded in the summer. We will let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information given above covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications. A decision on awarding grades for BTEC and other applied/vocational qualifications has not yet been made. Ofqual is working with the exam boards to finalise these arrangements. We will let you know about this decision in the coming weeks. Further information can be gained from the

www.gov.uk website.

We will keep you up to date as new information becomes available. Please be assured that the grades students get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned. I can be contacted at school from Monday to Thursday next week, 8.00 – 3.00pm, if you have any questions/queries.

Best wishes

Alison Burgess

Principal