



### Examinations update from Mr McGlue

27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Pupil/ Parent,

Find attached the latest from the examination boards regarding the Corona Virus.

Please remember this is correct at the time of publication and is subject to change.

#### **CCEA**

CCEA are rapidly working up plans to implement the arrangements that the Minister of Education has set out for us.

Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. Detailed information about the process and timetable will follow once we have advised the Department of Education. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow.

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

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

Further updates will continue to be available on this website.

<https://ccea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ccea-update-cancellation-summer-2020-examinations>

#### **Pearson (Edexcel)**

##### **GCSE, AS and A-Level exams in 2020**

[Please see this latest statement published on 26th March from Ofqual.](#) Ofqual have confirmed they will outline the process by Easter that will be followed for GCSEs, AS and A levels to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as the proposals for appeals. They will also share an update as soon as possible on the arrangements for additional exams in the new academic year.

##### **Vocational and technical qualifications in 2020**

[Please see this latest statement published on 25th March from Ofqual.](#) We will share more information with you as soon as it becomes available to ensure you and your learners are provided with the information you need on how BTEC qualifications will be assessed and awarded as quickly as possible.



# St Louis Grammar School

## A Specialist School for Technology and Computing

### AQA

#### Coronavirus and summer 2020 exams

**A message from AQA's Chief Executive, Mark Bedlow, on how we'll be awarding grades this summer.**

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Following the decision to close schools and not go ahead with this summer's exams, the government has announced [details of how grades will be awarded this summer](#). I know how keen you are to have some clarity, so I wanted to share this information with you.

Here are the main points:

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to. Students may also choose to sit exams next summer.

The Department for Education has also published a useful set of [questions and answers](#) about these arrangements.

We're currently working tirelessly with regulators, government and other exam boards to make sure young people who were due to take AQA exams this summer still achieve the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage of their lives – and that all the hard work our students and teachers have already put in is properly rewarded.

Associations representing teachers, schools and colleges are also involved and are helping create a process that's fair for everyone affected. As you'll appreciate, this is a complex piece of work that isn't quick and easy to do.



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## A Specialist School for Technology and Computing

I hope this information will answer some of your questions – but I appreciate that you may still have some. I promise we're working hard with regulators and government to get all the answers, so please bear with us.

We're here to support you through these extraordinary times, and we'll share new details as soon as we get them.

This – like the coronavirus itself – is an unprecedented situation for all of us. But our commitment to helping young people to realise their potential hasn't changed, and never will.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>

### OCR

#### Supporting you in challenging times

*From our Chief Executive Jill Duffy:*

The last few weeks have been unsettling and hard for teachers and for students who will be anxious about the cancellation of exams this summer. Our priority is supporting you and supporting your students to progress.

On Friday 20 March, the government provided more guidance on how grades would be calculated. We've summarised this advice below. We know you have questions that still need answering and we are working closely with our regulator Ofqual and with the DfE to get answers for you. We'll share these with you as soon as we can so you have more clarity.

The principle we will follow is that students get grades that fairly reflect the work they have put in. This must apply consistently to every qualification, from GCSEs and A Levels to our vocational qualifications, which include Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals.

To support you in the coming weeks, we'll be sharing further updates from Ofqual and the DfE as soon as we get them. We'll also be sending you a weekly roundup of news so you won't miss anything. We're also expanding the 'coronavirus advice' section on our website with fresh information whenever we can and with relevant resources, including a frequently asked questions (FAQs) page, which we will keep updated.

We know this is a difficult time for schools and colleges to operate and we want to make sure our communications with you are as open and clear as possible, particularly when important updates are coming out. If you haven't already provided us with an email that is accessible at home as well as at school, [please do so here](#).

Above all, we'd like to say thanks for your flexibility and patience at this uncertain time. We'll be with you in the weeks and months ahead, so all your hard work is recognised and your students can progress with the qualifications they deserve.

<https://ocr.org.uk/news/coronavirus-advice/>