



May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and safe at this difficult time. Education across the country, and the whole world, has been thrown into turmoil with the onset of Covid-19 and no-one feels that more than the students, and parents, of Year 11.

Year 11 form tutors have been, or will be making phone calls home this week to touch base and check in. There have been a few queries from calls that have been made that I thought I could address here.

How we are the school deciding on the grade for their GCSE in each subject?

The information below is the latest information released by OFQUAL

How will centre assessment grades work?

We are asking schools and colleges to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. It is important that schools and colleges take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students - including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study. We are also asking schools and colleges to provide a rank order of students within each grade. This is because the statistical standardisation process will need more granular information than the grade alone. We have provided clear guidance to schools and colleges on the grading and rank ordering process to help staff in different schools and colleges take a common approach to assessing their students.

When and how will centre assessment grades be submitted to exam boards?

Exam boards will provide detailed instructions to schools and colleges on when and how to submit centre assessment grades after Easter. The deadline will not be earlier than 29 May 2020 and centres will have a window of at least two weeks in which to submit the data. In the meantime, we are advising schools and colleges on the next steps they need to take to give them the maximum possible time to prepare.

Should schools and colleges be setting students new work to inform the grade they submit?

There is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.



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What does this mean for non-exam assessment?

In some subjects students will have completed, or nearly completed, non-exam assessment. This will be helpful to schools and colleges in deciding each student's grade and rank order. Where there are several subject teachers within a school or college, this work might also be helpful in standardising teachers' approach to determining the rank order and awarding grades. Schools and colleges do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of grading

What date will results be made available?

Originally the government said that they would try to give out results earlier than usual in July but this has not been possible. Results day will be as it always was **20th August**.

How will be giving the actual grades to students?

We cannot answer this question just yet. Ideally we would like to give them out in person in school if guidelines and social distancing measures allow. We can guarantee that your child will receive their exam results on **Thursday 20th August** though.

How can they resit it if they don't get the grade they were hoping for?

Originally the government said that students would be able to sit an exam if they were not happy with the grade they are allocated. There are usually 2 exam points in the academic year - November and May. Full guidance has not yet been published about this. More information can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

What about college places and preparation for next year?

We are in contact with all the major colleges. They have provided activities and pre-reading materials and have sent emails to families to tell them that their college place is safe. All of this information has been put onto the YEAR 11 Team page on Microsoft Teams and can be found here <https://www.cronton.ac.uk/year-11-resources/>

We also have bespoke careers appointments available with Paula Woodruff. She is a member of the YEAR 11 team and can also be contacted on careersappointment@penkethhigh.org

It is very important to us all at Penketh High School that our Year 11 students, your children, know that they are still an important member of our school. There are obviously no guarantees with this but we have provisionally rebooked the Year 11 Prom for Friday 25th September and we are very much looking forward to celebrating their time at Penketh High providing guidelines and social distancing measures allow.

Take care and stay safe

Kind Regards

Ian Farrar

Mr Ian Farrar



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