



# St Michael's Catholic College

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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Re: Important information about how GCSE and A 'Level grades will be generated this year**

Ofqual who are the organisation responsible for all GCSE and A 'Level exams in the country have now published initial guidance about how your child's exam results will be generated and they have asked me to share this letter being sent to students also with you:

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### **A message from Ofqual for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer**

I 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. I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

### **How will grades be calculated?**

Your school or college will be asked to send 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 your school or college, 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 school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course. This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

### **Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?**

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

### **Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?**

**No**, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; **they will not be allowed to share this with you.**



**When will I get my results?**

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally, they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

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

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks. The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our detailed guidance; along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website. Please be reassured that the grades you 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.

**Sally Collier**  
**Chief Regulator, Ofqual**

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Ofqual have also produced more detailed guidance for students and parents which can be found using this link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877842/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_EPQ\\_AEA\\_in\\_maths\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf)

More information will be made available to schools after Easter about the actual processes involved in generating your grades and I will update you then about the next steps we will be taking. Please do not be worried, I will ensure that we will follow the guidelines for generating grades properly and fairly so that all of our students are able to move forward as they had intended.

In the meantime, students should see the time that they have now as an opportunity to consolidate and extend their learning and to complete some essential preparation for their planned A 'Level/CTEC courses or for university studies or apprenticeships.

Yours Sincerely



Ms F. Corcoran  
Principal