



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

Dear Parents/Carers,

7th April 2020

Parents will have probably seen the recent announcements about the award of GCSE grades. We will be asked to provide assessment grades to the examining boards at some point after 29th May. As we stated earlier students will be given the opportunity to resit any examinations in Autumn 2020 or summer 2021 where they believe the grades they are awarded do not reflect their ability. We are continuing to offer tuition to our year 11 students who may wish to sit these examinations.

Below is some summarised information we have received from the examination boards:

- 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.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- These 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 – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

Until further notice, we have therefore decided that it will still be necessary for your child to take part in the online tutorials as previously communicated. The most recent series of mock exams have revealed, as will be the case in all schools, a number of gaps in your child's knowledge and so the online tutorials alongside the work that your child produces as a result of them will

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contribute to the evidence that your child has closed these gaps and fully deserved the grade that they have been assigned.

Post 16 providers are closed from Monday 23rd March 2020, but there will be somebody from college and training providers admissions teams responding to students enquiries and processing any new applications for the 2020 cohort. The DfE published the following statement on 20th March 2020 "The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year." Colleges and training providers will be accepting these formal grades in the same way they would in any other year. If you have any further questions then the college or training provider should be your first port of call as they will have any information that is specific to them at hand. Alternatively contact Mr Miele via email on nmiele@darwenvale.com for any further assistance.

I would also like to assure you that we will be doing all that we can to rearrange the Year 11 Prom but we cannot guarantee the situation so more information will follow as soon as I have it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.



Mr M Little
Principal