

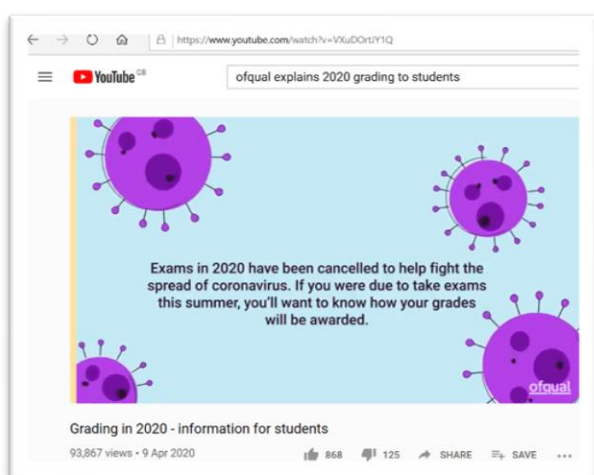


21/04/20

Dear Year 11

I hope you and your family are well at this strange time.

Although school only closed 4 weeks ago and two of those weeks have been the Easter holidays, **normal** school feels like a long time ago. We are in the process of putting plans in place to evolve the work you're being sent, to reflect the process your teachers are going through to support the process of sending **suggested grades** for the subjects you have been doing to the exam boards, as well as planning for the future and the **courses/training you will be starting in September**.



As the days go by, more details are being clarified by OFQUAL and the exam boards, outlining what they expect schools to provide them with to support the **suggested grades** we submit to them. Here is a useful YouTube clip that OFQUAL have produced which explains this process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q>

This information covers GCSEs (& A Levels), Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technical qualifications, but so far, they have **not made a final decision about BTECs or RSL**. This information has been promised **soon** by OFQUAL and the exam boards. **As soon as we know more, we will let you know**.

OFQUAL and your teachers are working hard to make sure that the process is as **realistic and fair** as possible. **Suggested grades are not just based on what your last mock grade** was; they will be **based on the range of work** that you have done since the start your course and will take into account how your knowledge, understanding and work **have progressed and improved** over that time. Finishing important pieces of work this week, such as coursework (especially if it was almost completed before school closed) and making sure your teachers have it will help your teachers come to a suggested grade, however, **you will not be penalised if you haven't been able to do this** due to illness or a lack of resources/facilities, **so please don't worry** if this work isn't completed, as **teachers will focus on the work you have done, not work that is missing**. When all of this is considered, the aim is to ensure that a lack of resources over recent weeks, or one bad performance in a mock exam won't have undue influence on the suggested grade sent to the exam board. This process also means that your suggested grade sent to the exam board isn't automatically going to be the predicted grade from Go4schools; the suggested grade could be higher or possibly lower than the predicted grade, as a result of the work you had been doing before school was closed, also the exam board could choose to adjust this grade.

Schools and OFQUAL are asking **students not to get in touch with teachers** asking about suggested grades. This is, quite rightly, a complicated and time-consuming process, which will take a lot of thought and consideration for your teachers to complete to ensure the suggested grade reflects your hard work and understanding in each subject. At Bramcote College, suggested grades will also be checked by Mrs Gale, Mrs Parker Dennis and myself, along with the school's Data Team to make sure that they are as accurate as they can be.

OFQUAL and the exam boards still plan on publishing **exam results on Thursday 20th August 2020**, so between now and then, please try not to worry about your results because you have done all that you can to secure the grades you need. There have been suggestions from OFQUAL and the exam boards that there will be an **appeals** process after results day if you are disappointed with the grade allocated by the exam board. There are also discussions around **Autumn exams** if you want to **'re-sit'** a subject that you didn't have a chance to sit in the Summer, to see if you can get a higher grade. Once these are clarified, we will share this information with you.

Meanwhile, September is still a long way off and we want to make sure that you don't waste this time. No matter **what you plan on studying or training to do in September**, it's important that you keep your brain, and skills active and developing. Over the coming weeks, we are going to be sending **personalised pre-Year 12 packages** to you. We will be getting in touch either offering a place at BC6F or offering help to secure a place at other colleges/apprenticeships to ensure that you have the best plans in place for you for September. You will also be sent **work concentrating on the courses you have chosen**; for most of you this will be three courses, but if you are undecided, it may be four courses. If you are planning on doing a course that we don't have teachers for, we will find **alternative studies** for you to do over the coming months. Some of the work you may be set could include doing some **GCSE Maths and English** if your predicted grades were 3, 4, or 5 because you may choose to sit an exam in one or both subjects in the Autumn, to secure a grade 4, 5 or even a 6, depending on what you need for further studies, training, or work.

I can't stress strongly enough what an **opportunity** this new work presents to you, to be prepared for your post 16 studies or training and how important it is that you do this work. I appreciate that there have probably been times when you have wondered what the point is in doing the GCSE work you are being set by your teachers, however, this work is incredibly important because it could give you a valuable head start and the chance to aim higher when you start to look at University or Degree Level Apprenticeships starting in 2022.

Keep an eye on your Bramcote College emails and on Teams and get ready to start the new work you are sent for your new courses. This is an exciting opportunity and we expect everyone to make the most of it and remember to stay safe, stay home, save lives, and support the NHS and all key workers.

Missing you all!



Miss Cooper
Deputy Headteacher
Bramcote College