



April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

On 18 March 2020, the Secretary of State announced that the summer 2020 exam series would be cancelled in order to help fight the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Following the announcement, we have been waiting for further guidance from Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, which they have released this afternoon. They have provided schools, parents and students with more details of how the qualifications will be awarded and information of this can be found here:

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

They have also written to students directly; please find a copy of the letter attached.

There is a lot of information included and once we have digested the information, we will communicate a summary to year 11 and year 13 students as well as the parents.

One key point that needs to be highlighted is that students will be provided with the opportunity to sit their exams in the autumn term should they not be happy with grades awarded. Consequently, we advise that year 11 and year 13 students should continue to complete the work that has been set through their subjects. We want the students to be in the strongest position should they wish to sit the exams.

Equally, it is also important to remember that your child in year 11 is only six months away from beginning their Sixth Form/College courses, therefore it is even more important that students are fully prepared for the more challenging work in the 6th form / college courses. Mr Hamilton (Head of Sixth Form) has already been in touch with Year 13 students about the opportunities to prepare for Higher Education via EtonX and moocs. Both platforms enable Year 13 students to enrol in University transition courses that will help bridge the gap between A-Level and University.

For those year 11 who are not staying in our Alexandra 6th Form for September 2020, we will be reaching out to you to see if we can allay some of your anxieties about joining a new institution and will work with you to see if we can provide your post 16 courses within the Ark Alexandra 6th Form so that you have some security and continuity with teachers who care about you and know you well.

I know that your child has been extremely concerned and worried about how their GCSE or A level grades will be awarded. I hope that this information provides you with some assurance and guidance. We will work closely with the exam board recommendations to ensure that the awarding of grades is a thorough, fair and robust process.

We will be in contact after Easter. I wish you a healthy and safe Easter holiday.

Kind regards,

Mr Connor and Mr Hamilton