

Dear Year 11 Students and Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you as Deputy Headteacher responsible for Key Stage 4, on behalf of the Leadership Team. As you will be aware, on Wednesday 18th March, the government announced that schools nationally would be closed and along with this announcement that GCSE and A Level examinations would be cancelled. On Friday, we were awaiting further details from the Department for Education as to how grades for our Year 11 students would be calculated and therefore what the implications would be for our Year 11 students.

Further guidance was released later on Friday afternoon and is outlined in this press release from the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

Further details on exams and grades announced - GOV.UK

The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer, following our actions to slow the spread of coronavirus.

www.gov.uk

The Department for Education have set out a further useful document that may answer many of your questions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

In summary,

1) Teachers will be asked to submit predicted grades.

We are awaiting instructions regarding what evidence teachers must use to make predictions of the grades that students would have got in each subject.

At WSfG teachers updated their predictions for our internal records 2 weeks ago.

We will review these recent predictions alongside in class assessments, walking talking mocks and practical work for relevant subjects.

Each year we have analysed how accurate teacher predictions are and will use this information to make adjustments to our predictions to ensure we are as accurate as possible.

Students should NOT contact teachers directly about their predicted grades-teachers will be advised not to respond to any students who do e-mail teachers regarding this.

2) The exam boards will also take into account any results from Year 6 National Curriculum Tests which may be used to adjust the predicted grades for a student.

We do not know what the implications of this are -however the Department for Education have said this is to ensure fairness and so should not disadvantage any student.

Students at WSfG make very high progress from their Year 6 tests and we would expect this to be factored into calculations.

Not all students have sat these tests: this should not be a disadvantage to you in any way.

3) Students will have the right to appeal a grade that they feel is unfair.

As a school, we will retain any evidence that we have of students achievement to support any appeals.

Students should keep all school work so that it can be used in the event that you want to appeal a grade.

4) Students will have the right to sit any GCSE subject in the next academic year if they are unhappy with the grade that they have been awarded.

It is important that students cover the complete course in case they decide to sit an exam in the autumn term.

Your teachers will be available to teach you the remainder of the course through the use of Office365 Teams.

Actions

It is important that families talk through the options for our Year 11 students. We strongly advise all Year 11 students to go on-line each day and complete the remainder of their courses so that they are in the strongest position to make decisions when they receive their results. Ideally, students will do this following the timing of the school day and their timetable as their teacher will then be on-line and can interact with the class live. We recognise that in these unusual times, whole families are negotiating use of technology and so students will still be able to access the work after the lesson time and complete it independently.

The instructions for students to access Teams are attached to this e-mail and can also be found in the Remote Learning section of the website.

We will continue to update you as we have further information. We will continue to have a member of the safeguarding team available each day. Please continue to use the info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk e-mail address to alert staff of any concerns, however please limit e-mails to essential communication. Teachers will interact with their classes through Teams 'chat' and will be asked not to respond to individual e-mails of students or parents.

Kind regards

Ms Kennedy

Deputy Headteacher/ Interim Associate Headteacher
Walthamstow School for Girls