



# Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

**Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Students in Years 11 and 13,

I am writing to you further to my letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 regarding the detailed guidance from Ofqual and the grading process for this summer's cancelled GCSE and A level examinations.

You will have read in the Ofqual letter that I circulated that students are not required to undertake any further work towards the centre assessed grade. I am therefore writing to clarify the school's position in line with the Ofqual letter; we are not expecting students to continue to undertake work in preparation for these GCSE and A level examinations. There is no requirement to undertake or submit any further work in support of a centre assessed grading. The centre assessed grade will be arrived at using the information already held in school by class teachers and their assessments of students' most likely progress. I have therefore asked all teachers of Years 11 and 13 students not to set any further work.

A couple of parents have raised the question about the use of mock examination grades to inform the centre assessed grade. The guidance from Ofqual is reasonably clear in this regard, centres are required to assess a grade that they believe that students were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. The school is required to consider a range of progress indicators such as coursework, classwork, homework, in class tests and any other assignments. Mock exams are only a part of this consideration. In line with this requirement class teachers at the school will, after Easter, begin to consider centre assessed grades.

Class teachers will of course know your children very well and know how much progress was being achieved following mock exams. They will also have an understanding that for nearly all students the last ten weeks before the exams are a time for much revision, a time when significant positive strides are taken towards achieving their final examination grades.

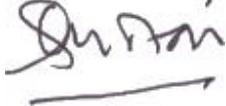
All these considerations will go towards the centre assessed grade; they will not be just based on the mock exam results. In the end the final grade will be decided by the exam boards using national data and centre assessed grades, we will endeavour to make sure that the information that we submit to aid this decision making is fair, all round and a true reflection of each student's capability.

After Easter, I will be in contact with families again to discuss how it is best to keep Year 11 students connected with their learning in preparation for the sixth form. This is important; however, it is a less urgent task and something that is likely to be much more complicated to achieve in practice given the context of the school closure. Once we have had an opportunity

to consider the practicalities of organising this work for Year 11, I will write to you at the end of April. If in the meantime you have any questions, please do contact me directly, on [schoolclosure@cdarwin.com](mailto:schoolclosure@cdarwin.com).

I hope that you and your families are well and keeping as safe as possible in these difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Chotai', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sunil Chotai  
Headteacher