



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc

22nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of students in Year 12 undertaking public examinations,

I am writing to you after the receipt of guidance from Ofqual regarding the grading process for this summer's cancelled GCSE, AS and A level examinations.

You will read in the Ofqual letter (attached) 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, AS 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 those students in Year 12 sitting public exams not to set any further work towards this examination.

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 now 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.

If you have any questions, please do contact me directly on schoolclosure@cdarwin.com.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sunil Chotai
Headteacher



A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the ~~announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news.~~ I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when

making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new

information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Sally Collier

Chief Regulator, Ofqual