



## Qualification Grading Arrangements for Summer 2020

Dear parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students,

We are writing to you to inform you of how Leventhorpe proposes to proceed in the light of the government's further information on Summer 2020 qualifications.

### What has been clearly stated

The government has clearly stated that there will be no summer 2020 examination season. Public examinations will not be released to schools and they will not be available through private organisation.

The government has also stated that students due to take their examinations in the summer of 2020 will receive their qualifications and that the grades awarded will have the same value as previous years:

*"The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers."*

Parents and students in Year 11 and 13 can feel confident, therefore, that they will receive the same qualification as normal.

### What has been suggested in principle

The government have suggested that qualifications will be awarded based on a number of alternative pieces of evidence, since examination will not be taken.

They have suggested the following will contribute:

- Performance in mock examination will be a factor
- Prior attainment will be a factor (primary school SATs for GCSE and GCSE for A' Level we assume)
- Non-examined assessment (NEA or coursework) will be a factor
- Teacher assessment will be a factor
- Also, there will be some form of checking to ensure individual schools do not inflate grades unfairly,

*"Ofqual will consider carefully how to ensure the process is as fair as possible, which is likely to include considering measures that reflect how much progress a student would have been likely to have made at the school they are attending."*

It has also been stated that "predicted grades" will **not** be the only factor which defines the grade outcomes.

So far there has been no information about how these five factors will be weighted in coming to a calculation about the final grade.

It has also been suggested that students will be able to take examinations later, “as soon as is practically possible” and certainly by summer 2021, should they not be satisfied with the grade they are awarded.

#### What we will do in the light of this at Leventhorpe

While the detail of these decisions is being clarified by the government and Ofqual we would like to propose the following:

Firstly, Leventhorpe will do its best to ensure fairness and transparency in its processes for awarding grades. We will do our best to give our students credit for their effort and ability, so that the grade they are awarded, gives reliable information on what might be their next steps in education and employment.

In ensuring transparency we can say that several of the grading factors are already visible to students, parents and carers on our Go4school reporting system:

- Mock examination grades can be seen, based on the exam-condition mocks in December for Year 11 and January for Year 13
- Prior attainment grades are expressed as the “Target Grade”. At Leventhorpe we use a standard mechanism for calculating these, which are hopeful will be close to the system used by Ofqual
- NEA/coursework grades are not yet finalised, but teachers will be working with students to ensure their coursework is finished as far as it can be using online learning. We will not penalise students for not having completed practical elements missed because of school closing, but we will expect work that can be completed remotely to be completed
- Teacher assessments are not yet finalised, but our “Predicted Grade” represents the class teacher current best estimate of what a students’ final grade should be. The school term is not over and so further work completed online in the weeks ahead will modify the teacher’s prediction

Of the four factors above only the first two are fixed, the mock examination factor and the prior attainment factor. The remaining two factors can be negatively affected or positively affected by the work that students do during their period of social isolation.

#### What Year 11 and Year 13 students will need to do in the weeks ahead

- Students will need to complete the elements of their NEA that they can at home to the best of their ability
- They will also need to engage with their online learning as they have an opportunity to change their teacher’s assessment of their effort and ability
- They may also want to consider, their personal commitment to the possibility of taking their GCSE or A’ Level at a later date. If they would like to do this, teachers will support their effort while the school year lasts to have an effective revision programme.

#### The value of education in itself

At Leventhorpe, we believe that examination grades are only a representation of the benefit of education. The true value of education extends beyond a qualification or a grade and so we urge students at home to engage with their learning for the long term as well as for the more immediate relevance to the award of qualification grades.

Further information

The link below will take you to the text of the government's announcement made about qualifications on 20<sup>th</sup> March. We have used this as the basis of our suggest processes at Leventhorpe.

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

Thank you for your patience as we find our way through this unexpected set of new processes.

Yours sincerely,  
Malcolm White  
Headteacher