

27 March 2020

Dear Year 11 student,

GCSE Results - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Following the cancellation of this summer's examination season, there has been an initial announcement on how GCSE grades will be awarded. The final process still requires confirmation from the examinations regulator, Ofqual. Once those final arrangements have been made, we will work to finalise your results for submission to the examination boards. The examination boards will then moderate the recommendations and issue results.

We are fully aware that for many of you, the announcement about the examinations is disappointing and upsetting. You might well feel that your chance to demonstrate your ability and commitment has been taken away. This is not the case. Many of you have been displaying great commitment to learning in your time at Isleworth & Syon School and it is important to remember this. Our intention now is to ensure that this is reflected in the awarding of your grades.

You can also turn these events into something positive, by using your time wisely. Put yourself in the best possible position for the re-opening of education, by maintaining your work rate, by extending your reading and by looking to develop your own personal skills or interests. Adverse situations can often produce opportunities that might not otherwise have been considered.

GCSE Grades

The initial announcement from the Government is summarised here:

- The priority is ensuring that you can move on to Sixth Form courses, an apprenticeship, employment and training, or college.
- GCSE grades will be awarded to fairly reflect the work that you have put in.
- Subject teachers will judge the grade that you would have received had the examinations gone ahead, and submit this to the examination boards. They will then make the final decision.
- A range of evidence will be used including mock examinations and non-examination assessments.
- Coursework, tests, assessments, predicted grades and Attitude to Learning data will be used.
- Prior attainment will also contribute to the overall grade.

It is important to keep working on the material that your teachers are currently setting as this work might still contribute to the final assessment of your work. Your PPE grades from early March will not be issued at this stage until we have had further instructions from the examination boards. They will contribute to our overall submission.

Once the grades are awarded, there will be the chance to appeal the grade if you think it is wrong. You will probably need to take an examination when schools have re-opened, should you wish to appeal. A Government guidance document that aims to answer common questions in relation to the cancellation of examinations can be found [here](#).

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Future Courses or Work

As discussed in the Year 11 assembly on Friday, the other reason to maintain a commitment to your studies at this stage is to ensure that you are ready for the next stage of your life.

If you are planning to take A levels, you will need to maintain your work rate; otherwise, you will find the transition difficult. If you are returning to our Sixth Form and have accepted your place, your teachers will start to provide transition materials to prepare you for your chosen courses later in the summer.

If you are going onto college or an apprenticeship, or a place of work, then it still remains important to keep the work rate going as references will still need to be produced for your next place of education or employer, and this might be relatively soon or in the longer-term.

End of Year 11 Event

We are all disappointed that the usual chance for an end-of-year celebration has been postponed. Staff at school have already started to work on an event where we can all come back together and mark the end of your eleven years of compulsory schooling in a fitting manner. The timing of this will clearly have to be considered and further information will follow when the COVID-19 outbreak is over. Whenever this takes place, we will look forward to it and ensure that the end of an historic school year is marked.

Keep well!

Yours sincerely,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher

