



The
Portsmouth Academy

24th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update Regarding Grades Awarded for Year 11 Students

Firstly, I would like to recognise the tremendous effort put in by Year 11 last week to ensure that any last minute non-examination assessment was completed. This will mean that, as a school, we have provided the opportunity to complete as much of our courses as possible and demonstrate the high standard of work that our students regularly produce.

On Friday, Ofqual announced that they, along with accompanying exam boards, will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. The Government is keen to ensure that all affected students are still able to move on as planned to the next stage of their lives.

We know that exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe their students would have received if exams have gone ahead. At the time of writing, this process is under development and we have no more information yet about what this will look like. Consequently, curriculum leaders are in the process of collating evidence of work and tracking progress over time so that we can submit this to exam boards once we have more information.

As a school, we track both current and estimated end of year attainment every term and consequently we have a solid data set, which can be submitted to exam boards to evidence the reliability of our assessment. We also have a solid track record of accuracy in estimation over the last three years. Therefore, I would like to reassure you that curriculum leads will do their utmost to ensure that students are awarded the grades that they were on track to achieve, also taking into account the gains that are usually made between now and the actual examination period.

In the meantime, teachers will continue to set work for Year 11 that will be assessment based to ensure that the work that they continue to do is both meaningful and has purpose. Please ensure that your daughter continues to access this work via Show My Homework and Teams.

I'd like to finish by echoing Mrs Grey's words about how impressed I have been with the year group's attitude and their spirit in the face of adversity. It is a testament to them as individuals and I know that they will continue to do themselves proud in their lives way beyond this difficult time.

I will communicate again in due course when I have more information. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Dolphin
Vice Principal: Curriculum and Assessment

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