

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

20 March 2020

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents, Carers and Students

Guidance has now been published by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Office for Qualifications (Ofqual) indicating how the cancelled Summer Exam season will be managed. I want to provide you with some reassurance before the weekend as this has been a particularly anxious time for all students preparing for public exams in Year 11 and Year 13.

The Government's priority, which we share, is to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the Autumn. This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in during their course. The exam boards will be asking your child's teachers, who know them well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

Schools are data rich, judgements will be formed from the battery of evidence which we hold in school. This will include, but is not limited to, prior attainment information, mock examinations, effort and the progress we would normally expect a student to make between now and the final examination. We will shortly receive further guidance on how to refine these judgements.

Typically, Oaklands staff have been reasonably accurate when forecasting grades. Ofqual will work with the exam boards to ensure that the process for judging performance is consistently applied for all students.

For students who wish to, particularly if they are not content with or wish to improve on the teacher assessed grade, there will be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year.

More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The Government hope that this process is concluded by the end of July, we would anticipate grades being made available on the publication date in August.

For students in Year 13, university representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education. For students in Year 13 applying for apprenticeships or university, it is important that they keep in contact with these providers who, no doubt, will continue to respond to the current situation.

Year 13 have recently completed mock exams and we are in the process of marking those papers. We will be sending grades home for these tests in the coming weeks. This report will not include the predicted grades as we are awaiting further detail from the Department of Education regarding those predictions. They have suddenly become very important to check and moderate before you receive them. We will keep you informed on the timeline.

For Year 11 students who have decided to return to Oaklands Sixth Form, the current situation will not be any bar to them returning, we look forward to seeing these students in the Autumn. We will be keeping in contact over the next few months, via email, providing tasks to help prepare them for the start of their A Level courses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Matthew Quinn
Headteacher