



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am not writing a letter this week but felt an urge to communicate to you and your children specifically after what can only be described as the most surreal, challenging and honestly heart-breaking week of my career and possibly my life to date.

I have so few answers for you and your children and I am sorry that I can not shed light on a what feels like such a dark and confusing time.

The most recent Government guidance issued with respect to GCSE grades and other qualifications has been released and I copy this below verbatim for you to read:

Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

I genuinely believe that this information is incredibly positive and sends a clear message to students who are concerned about their most recent grades to not be. Our teachers are extremely skilled at making such judgements and our incredible relationships with them will ensure that such judgments will be a holistic representation of ability and achievement.

Rest assured, we will be with your child, every step of the way from now until they walk through the door to their college or sixth form provision in September.

Whilst I can not promise to have the answers, please never hesitate to contact us for support and advice.

Until then, I wish your children all the best with their continued studies.

It is how we respond to moments like these in life that make us who we are and propel us forward.

They are truly wonderful children. A credit to you.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash