



St Ursula's Convent School

A Humanities College and Teaching School

Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London, SE10 8HN

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Headteacher: Mrs Catrina Hamilton NPQH, Bed.Hons, Accredited SENCO

Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer of Year 11 pupil

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Year 11 Exams Update Monday 23rd March 2020

I write to you again to update you about the **GCSE public examinations**.

I will summarise the information we have received:

Following the decision to close schools and not go ahead with this summer's exams, the government has announced [more details](#) of how grades will be awarded this summer. I know how keen you are to have some clarity, so I wanted to share this information with you right away.

Here are the main points:

- 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.
- Exam boards will be asking our teachers, who know your daughters well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe your daughter would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- Our teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data. The exam boards have indicated that clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment (key stage 2 results), and use this information to produce a calculated grade for your daughter, which will be a best assessment of the hard work she has put in.
- Exam boards aim to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- The exam boards are saying that these grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- Exam boards aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades to the exam boards if they do not believe the right process has been followed.
- It has also been indicated that there will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.





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I hope this new information will answer some of your questions. We await further clarification. In the meantime, Year 11 students must continue with the work being set by their teachers and should remain focused.

I appreciate that you and your daughter will be feeling very stressed and I have shared with you in this letter all the information that I have received to date in an attempt to help alleviate some of this stress. I will continue to communicate with you as further information becomes available. Please resist the urge to email and phone with questions at this time. We cannot reply to individual parents separately asking the questions that we all share.

Working from home

Teachers will be providing remote learning activities for students during this indefinite school closure. Whilst it is important for students to continue their studies, we must be realistic about what is achievable, which includes being aware of the competing demands on students, parents and teachers in their homes during these challenging circumstances. Remote learning of this scale is something new to us all; our guidelines and expectations will evolve over the coming weeks.

Please ensure your daughter remains as focused as possible over the coming months.

Please continue to monitor the school website regularly
www.stursulas.com/news/coronavirus-update/ for any further announcements.

Yours faithfully

Catrina Hamilton

Catrina Hamilton
Headteacher

