



Ark All Saints Academy

Monday 30th March 2020

Dear Parent,

Year 11 update on exams and grades

We informed you last week that your child will not be sitting their exams this summer. We still want to say well done for all their hard work. The work ethic they have developed and the curriculum they have followed will support them in whatever they choose to go on to do.

Secondly, we now have further guidance we want to share with you.

Latest Updates

The Department for Education (DfE) outlined last week that your child will be awarded a grade that fairly reflects their ability and work.

Office of Qualifications and Examinations and Regulation (Ofqual) are in the process of developing the process that will provide the calculated grades to each scholar that reflects their performance as fairly as possible. They will work with exam boards, the DfE and schools to do this. Once we know more, we will let you know what this will look like, but we are expecting it to be similar to the Age Related Grades (ARGs) that scholars were given at the last parent's evening.

When working with Ofqual, our teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data, including performance on mock exams, non-exam assessments, class work and recent assessments. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to our teachers.

The qualifications and certificates your child will receive will be **exactly the same** as what scholars in previous years have been awarded. They will be indistinguishable. To a college, university or employer, a grade 7 this year will be the same as a grade 7 last year and in future years to come.

The Department for Education aim to provide these calculated grades to students before **the end of July**.

Appeal

We recognise that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams or that they have not been awarded the grade they deserve. The DfE have announced that if this is the case there will be three options to choose from:

- The possibility to sit **optional** exams early in the next academic year.
- The opportunity to appeal if you do not believe the correct process has been followed.
- Scholars can sit exams in **summer 2021** with the next cohort of scholars.

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We have not been told the details each of these options yet. We will share this with you as soon as we know more.

Preparing for 2020/21

Every child has a statutory right to a broad and balanced education up until June 2020. Every scholar should therefore **finish the curriculum** in each of their core and foundation subjects. Work is provided on Show My Homework (SMHW) to do this. All scholars should continue to follow their normal timetable to complete what has been set.

It has always been our aim that scholars are prepared “for university and beyond”. Teachers at AASA are working tirelessly with each other, exam boards and local sixth forms to produce **bridging material** that will help scholars transition between GCSE and level 3 qualifications.

There will also be scholars who we predict will not meet the standard pass mark (Grade 4) in English or Maths. The vast majority of these scholars will therefore have to continue studying English and Maths next year. We will be in touch with you if your child is likely to be in this situation so we can give you advice on the best way to support them. We will also continue to provide additional support for this group on SMHW.

For more information on this, please visit the DfE website by clicking on the link below.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): [Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#)

From everyone at Ark All Saints Academy, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Yours faithfully,

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