



Ark All Saints Academy

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your child are well and staying safe. As always, we want to keep you up to date with what is happening. Therefore, we want to go through the government advice regarding Year 11 and explain how we have followed their procedure, robustly and fairly, to put forward grades for every scholar at Ark All Saints. We hope this will provide reassurance and answer any questions you and your child might have.

This letter also includes information about what happens next for Year 11 and some things to look forward to.

Centre Assessed Grades

You will be aware that the government cancelled all external examinations this summer. This includes all GCSE, BTEC and A-level exams. Despite this, scholars will still receive grades for the qualifications they have been working towards. This grade will be their final grade for the course. They will appear on scholars' final certificates in exactly the same way as any previous year group and will be worth exactly the same.

These grades will be calculated by Ofqual, the government department responsible for the regulation of exams in England. These will be released to scholars on results day, Thursday 20th August 2020.

Scholars who are unhappy with the grade awarded by this process will be able to sit an exam early next academic year. The arrangements for these exams are yet to be published. They will also have the opportunity to appeal, but the grounds for appeal are limited to administration errors.

To support Ofqual with these grades, all schools have been asked to provide the exam boards with information that will help make the calculation of grades as fair as possible. They require a **Centre Assessed Grade**, which is our prediction of the most likely grade the scholar would have got. They also require us to **rank** every scholar within a grade.

Our process

All Teachers, Heads of Departments and Senior Leaders at the academy have been working hard over the last few weeks to make sure that the information we submit is accurate. We have followed the guidance from Ark about how to do this as fairly and robustly as possible.

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We have drawn on records of scholar performance throughout Key Stage 4. This has included both sets of mocks sat this year, end of Year 10 exams and Learning Checks in Year 11. We have also drawn on teachers' expert judgement and compared what scholars who followed a similar trajectory in previous years went on to achieve. We also carefully considered the work that was being produced in class and at home before the period of lockdown started.

Every grade and ranking has been reviewed by Ms Frame, Mr Chapman, Mr Ade, the Head of Department and every teacher in that department. We have made sure as much as possible that the judgments are an accurate and fair reflection of each scholar's performance. Teachers have looked at work submitted up to 20th March but have not been allowed to take into account any work completed after that date.

The grades and ranking are now being reviewed by Ark who are in the position to compare across 21 schools and all of their historical data. Once this review is complete, we will make final amendments and then submit grades to the exam boards in the first week of June.

Sharing this information

We understand that you and scholars will want to know what grades and rankings we have submitted, but under no circumstances are we able to share this information as government guidance states this will reduce the integrity of the process.

Furthermore, the grades we have put forward are suggestions, with the final grades to be awarded by Ofqual and the exam board. There is no guarantee therefore that what we submit will be the grades they are awarded. We have made it clear to teachers that if they are in conversations with scholars they cannot even hint to what grades have put forward. We hope you understand why this is and support us by explaining this to your child.

As with any previous cohort of Year 11, there is lots of data that we have given to you during Year 10 and Year 11 which will support you and your child in knowing what grades they were on track to get. You can use this when making any decisions around making additional Post 16 applications. On results day, scholars will have the opportunity to amend applications if they need to. Ms Khanam, our Careers Advisor, and other members of staff will also be around to support with this on the day

The cancellation of exams was a momentous decision taken in response to the unprecedented threat of the coronavirus. A number of parents and scholars have contacted the academy with questions about the situation. We want to reassure you that we will continue to support all our scholars during this time, so that they are able to take the next steps in their educational journeys. All Post 16 providers understand



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the unique situation that scholars find themselves in this year. They will be working hard to place scholars on the right courses; we are working closely with them to make sure that this happens.

Ms Khanam continues to be available to all Year 11 scholars to offer advice around Post 16 courses and can be contacted via email (careers@arkallsaintsacademy.org) or on Show My Homework.

Please continue to log into SMHW

Well done to all of Year 11 for continuing to log into SMHW. This lets us know they are safe. Secondly, there are also resources available for each subject to make sure scholars have finished the curriculum.

The last exam for Year 11 would have been the **Friday 12th June 2020**. After this, scholars will no longer need to log in every day, but should log in once a week to let us know they are safe. All the academic and wellbeing resources will remain on SMHW and scholars will still be able to access them until Thursday 20th August 2020.

Please make sure your child is regularly checking their emails for messages from Post 16 providers as many have now sent out preparation work for their incoming scholars to complete.

To look forward to

We are planning to hold an event where we can all be together and say goodbye properly. We cannot share more details on what and when this might be until government guidelines will allow it.

For now, staff have prepared video messages to say hello and Ms Holmes is putting this together to share with the scholars.

Ms Biosah and Ms Hodge are also planning more Microsoft Teams sessions for scholars after the success of the last ones. More information will follow soon.

Yours faithfully,

Ms L Frame
Principal



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