

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

You may be aware that Ofqual has now shared details of the system it will use to assess GCSE, AS and A level qualifications this year. They have also provided a letter to all students, which accompanies this letter and further details can also be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

Please note this guidance is for GCSE and A level qualifications. We are still waiting for guidance on other qualifications, such as OCR Nationals or BTECs.

The system is not ideal but it is probably just about the only option available to Ofqual. I can assure you, once again, we will be as fair to students as we can be and try to ensure they are awarded the grades they deserve. We will be working with subject teachers in the weeks to come, to make sure our submissions are as rigorous and as fair as they can be.

Detailed guidance is provided in the link above but it is worth highlighting some key points here:

- Subject teachers will submit the grades they believe students were most likely to have achieved in the summer examinations.
- Predictions will be based upon a range of factors including class work, coursework, controlled assessment, mock exam performance and any formal exam components that have already been completed.
- Subject teachers will also submit a rank order of students within each grade.
- Each prediction must be countersigned by two teachers, one of whom will be the subject leader.
- The head of centre (headteacher) will sign the overall submission.
- Ofqual have been very clear that teachers are not allowed to share this information with students or parents. The information is exempt from the data protection act because it relates to awarding qualifications.
- Subject teachers should take into account any special considerations, such as illness during mock examinations, when making their predictions.
- Examination boards will standardise results. The guidance states they will consider students' prior attainment and the performance of the school in recent years.
- The system for appealing grades has yet to be decided.



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- We will also check our methodology across trust schools. We hope this will make our data more robust and give us a better chance of the correct grades being awarded.

Many of you will be anxious about this process. However, I must repeat my request that you do not try to influence teachers' assessments. It is essential we apply the rules fairly to give all our pupils the best chance of success. I can assure you our aims are the same – we want to see your son or daughter achieve the best grades they can.

We will update you when Ofqual publish more information.

Please continue to stay safe. I hope you are managing well in these difficult times and, as always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if we can help you.

Yours sincerely,



**John McNally**  
**CEO, SHARE Multi-Academy Trust**