

5th May 2020

Update: Centre Assessed Grades for GCSE and A Levels 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide a further update as we are now over two weeks into the summer term and have received further important updates from Ofqual/ Exam Boards that I would like to share with you.

Once again I would like to thank parents for their support and patience at this time. On behalf of our schools we are also very grateful for all the supportive messages and the helpful feedback we have been receiving.

Over the last two weeks academic departments have worked extremely hard in their initial meetings to arrive at the school's assessed grades for the GCSE and A Level grading process. There are a number of stages for these grades to go through before they become our finalised centre-assessed grades, but this process is well under way.

Each set of Centre Assessment Grades and rank ordering for a subject must be signed off by at least two teachers in that subject, one of whom should be the Head of Department (or where there is only one teacher, or if only one is available, by the Head of Centre). The Head of Centre (Headteacher) must sign off the Centre Assessment Grade and rank order, for each exam board, declaring the information is accurate and is a true representation of student performance.

We have heard just today from Ofqual that Year 10 'early entry' assessments can also go ahead and that schools will need to give a teacher-assessed grade, and include these students in the overall rank order (*i.e. one list per qualification*).

Throughout this challenging time I have stressed that fairness to our students will be central to our approach and I am confident that our schools have conducted a highly robust process.

The exam boards have been very clear that the centre-assessed grades, rank orderings and endorsements are confidential and **must not** be given to students, parents/ guardians. I would like to thank parents for respecting this and not putting pressure on staff.

Standardisation

In order to ensure that grades are fair across all schools and colleges and equal to previous years, a standardisation process will be undertaken by exam boards. All the exam boards

offering qualifications in England will use the same standardisation model. The model will be used at national level for each qualification subject and will accommodate all centres.

The very latest information from JCQ is given at the bottom of this page if parents or students would like to read it.

Reminder: Exam Results Day

Just a reminder that the dates on which students will receive their grades is unchanged from the pre COVID -19 published dates, and are listed below:

13 August – GCE (AS/A Level)/ BTEC Level 3/ EPQ)

20 August – GCSE/ BTEC

As in previous years, the exam boards will be issuing full centre results to the Head of Centre and examinations officer the day before these dates so that they can prepare their administration for releasing results to students. As usual, JCQ will share results data with UCAS, for university entrance.

Finally, our websites, twitter and facebook pages are showcasing a rich montage of the work of our schools and the activities they have been providing during the lockdown period.

Please do take the time to have a look, Twitter: *@N_StarAT @skiptongirls @HarrogateHigh*

I sincerely hope that you and your families are all keeping safe and I am looking forward to the day we will be able to welcome all our pupils back to our schools, hopefully in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Jenn Plews

Chief Executive Officer
Northern Star Academies Trust

Useful links:

<http://www.icq.org.uk/Download/media-centre/news-releases/icq-update-on-the-summer-series-2020>