



March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well at this difficult time. I wanted to contact parents and carers of all Year 13 students to offer some reassurance about examinations and the awarding of grades this summer and also to formally acknowledge the unexpected end to seven years of schooling for your son/daughter at the Coleshill School on Friday.

The key paragraphs about examinations from the official guidance from the DFE are produced below:

'The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. 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. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.'

This therefore means that teachers will enter a grade that they believe is a reflection of the most positive, realistic outcome that your son/daughter would have achieved this summer. The process is designed so that no student will be disadvantaged in terms of the next stage of their lives – whether this be going to university, taking up an apprenticeship or entering employment. There will be an appeals procedure should your son/daughter be unhappy with the grade awarded, and/or the opportunity to take a test in September to provide further evidence, although I believe both these courses of action are unlikely to be necessary. The government has promised to make these grades available by the end of July and when we hear specifics about exactly how and when this will happen we will of course update you immediately.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to wish all Year 13 students well for the future as we have been denied the opportunity of a formal end to the school year and the usual leavers' assembly. There were some impromptu goodbyes on Friday but I would like to acknowledge officially the contribution made to the school by the current Year 13 students and to say that we will at some stage in the future arrange a fitting end to the school year which will hopefully include an assembly followed by a formal leavers' meal.

I would like to add on a personal note how much I have enjoyed working with the current Year 13 cohort and I know this is a sentiment echoed by all of the staff who have been privileged to be involved with the students. I hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Dan Howard
Assistant Headteacher