



Robert Clack School of Science

A Specialist College

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Update on Summer Examinations and Coursework

As you are aware this summer's exam series, including A Level, GCSEs and other qualifications have been cancelled. The Department for Education (DfE) has said that pupils will still be awarded a grade "which fairly reflects the work that they have put in". Detailed guidance from the DfE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

To summarise:

- There will be no examinations taking place this academic year.
- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgments about the grade that they believe the students would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into an account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment (coursework).
- 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.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they do not believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to. Students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

As the teacher prediction only forms part of the calculated grade that the pupil will be awarded, teachers have been told not to share or discuss predicted grades with pupils, parents or carers.

Transition to the next phase in education / employment

Please reassure your son or daughter that they will not be disadvantaged by this process. The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grade awarded in other years and will be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. The main university representative body, Universities UK, has said that universities will be flexible and do all they can to support and ensure students can progress to university.

We will write to Year 11 students who have applied to Robert Clack Sixth Form shortly so that they can complete 'Bridging Work' for the start of their A Level or Vocational studies in September. [A guide to remote learning *via* Google Classroom for all year groups can be found on our website.] Where possible, pupils in Years 11 and 13 should continue to complete coursework to the best of their ability as this may be requested as evidence by exam boards. We will keep you updated *via* our website in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Taylor
Headteacher

Mutual respect – Compassion – Discipline – High expectations & aspirations – Diligence

