

*"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."*  
**Ofsted**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020



Dear Year 13,

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are safe and well. In such a challenging set of circumstances for you, it is really important that you try and maintain a positive learning and healthy routine and environment. Your well-being is of paramount importance during this difficult and what must be an unsettling time for you all.

I wanted to write to you all today to reassure you that your teachers are working hard to support you in your current situation. As you will have heard, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Ofqual published its guidance to schools on how to award grades to Year 13 students.

We have been asked to send the exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- 1) the grade they believe you were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned.
- 2) within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements. So for example:

if there are 50 students studying subject X and 15 students are awarded a grade C; staff will be asked to rank them 1-15 based on how secure that grade is for each student.

So this is where I can reassure you. We have been asked to consider a range of evidence over a period of time. So for example this could include your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and assessments; any mock exams; any coursework you might have done and your general progress during your course as well as prior attainment at KS4. This will not just be based on your recent mock exam papers but a range of information that your teachers know about you. That is one of the great things about staff at President Kennedy School, they know their students incredibly well, built excellent relationships with their students and know exactly what they are capable of achieving. We have also gathered this information over a long period of time

We have been asked to submit this information to exam boards by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and unfortunately the guidance from Ofqual means that **teachers are unable to discuss grades with individual students and therefore we respectfully ask that students and families do not ask teachers for this information.** In the interests of fairness to all students, the exam boards will standardise grades across the country and therefore may adjust some grades either upwards or downwards, using a model being developed by Ofqual. This is normal and happens to most schools every year. For vocational qualifications (Btec subjects) schools are still awaiting confirmation about the completion of coursework. You should continue to complete assignments that were started before the school closed. If you are unsure about what you need to do, then please contact your specific subject teachers.



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The grades awarded to students will have equal status to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. On the results slips and certificates, grades will be reported in the same way as in previous years. Please feel rest assured that this approach will enable students to move onto the next stage of their education or employment in the autumn as planned. The Department for Education has discussed the plan with UCAS, school and college leaders, who are supportive of the approach. Also, students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

So what do you do in the meantime? You need to stay healthy as I have mentioned above, including regular exercise! You also need to keep working through your Level 3 subject materials and consolidate what you have learned so far. You also need to try and build on some of your existing knowledge by researching and reading more about some of your topics, using a range of research articles. Start to research the subject and courses you have applied for next academic year and read what the course is about. Try and research future pathways from universities and/or apprenticeships and different future career paths: your access to Unifrog will be beneficial here.

In the meantime, please contact us if you require further information about how we may help and support you. You can also look at the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document written by your Post 16 team. This will be updated regularly on the website in 'Frequently Asked Questions' section.

You have worked incredibly hard over a number of years and you will have deserved your future success. That was rightfully yours and no-one can take that away from you.

Please stay safe and take care.



Mr Clayton  
Headteacher