

# The Priory School

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A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

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23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government announced late Friday afternoon that it would be working with Ofqual to award GCSE grades to students this year using a range of data. What we know already is that this data will include prior attainment (likely from KS2 SATS), mock results and teacher predictions.

When grading mock exams for internal purposes the majority of our departments use upwardly adjusted grade boundaries. This takes into account the shift upwards that has been happening year on year since the introductions of the new and more rigorous grade boundaries. However now that the mock results are being directly used by the external exam boards we will be generating grades based on the actual 2019 grade boundaries. For all students this will mean that their mock grade will either remain unchanged or it will go up. It will be this information and students percentage results that we will share with exam boards as and when it is requested.

We will be sharing these updated grades with you but as I am sure you appreciate it will take some time for us to achieve this with the remote access and levels of staff illness that we are now working with.

GCSE predicted grades are professional judgements made by teachers based on their extensive knowledge of the current attainment of each student and how this correlates with final anticipated outcomes. This information is always generated in school every year and we have confidence in the reliability and accuracy of our teacher predictions. The Government has made it quite clear that they will not be awarding grades based only on these predictions.

For qualifications that have a controlled assessment element we are ensuring that all completed work is being marked and graded. This data will be ready for submission as and when it is requested. In any subjects that students have not completed such work teachers are using Show My Homework to set tasks to ensure completion if this is appropriate. Incomplete controlled assessment may still provide a valuable source of evidence when exam boards are making decisions about grades.

The Government has also said that students who are not satisfied with the grades that they are awarded may choose to sit their exams either later in this year or in the summer of 2021.

In order for students to do this successfully they would need to have completed their courses. It is for this reason that our staff are going to be posting GCSE work for Year 11 students on Show My Homework. If your child thinks they may choose to sit their exam after grades are released then it is essential that they complete the work that is being set. Please use the Show My Homework app to help monitor and support your child with this.

Finally there is a great opportunity for students in Year 11 to begin their Gold DofE. When they have turned 16 years of age, they can start their Gold journey. Once the registration fee of £30 has been paid (Scopay under 'Trips and Events') you will be emailed a registration form. Please fill it in and email it to Mrs Tanton at [ctn@priorycofe.com](mailto:ctn@priorycofe.com) and then she can enroll your son/daughter on edofe. As soon as this happens students will then be able to start working on their different sections. Remember each section is for one hour a week and no more. As we live through these unusual times it is important students gather evidence of what they are doing for their hour each week. They should start a spreadsheet or log for each activity and take photos along the way. If they are unsure whether or not an activity is suitable for each section, please email Mrs Tanton and ask before they start it. Students do not have needed to have completed either Bronze or Silver beforehand, they can be a direct entrant to Gold. Much more information can be obtained from Mrs Tanton or by looking at <https://www.dofe.org/do/>. Not only is this a very worthy and highly-regarded qualification in its own right, it will also provide an important diversion while students are out of their normal routine of education so we heartily recommend your son or daughter giving it their attention this summer.

We will continue to work with you and our Year 11 students to help them to secure the best GCSE grades that their work will allow them to achieve. Looking forward, many of our students will be preparing to start Priory 6 in September and we will begin a Y12 course introduction as we move into the summer term, albeit remotely. Our unwavering commitment to our students' success remains as steady as it always has been.

Kind regards

Mrs Abbott  
Deputy Headteacher

