

## Students who were due to take examinations during 2020

I would like to provide you with an update on arrangements for exams. We appreciate that some students will feel an understandable sense of disappointment that they won't be physically sitting exams in the same way they had expected but would like to offer some reassurance that alternative measures will ensure your child is awarded examination grades so that they can move onto the next stage in their education

- a) This year's summer exam series, including GCSEs and other qualifications have been cancelled due to coronavirus outbreak. The Government will not publish any school or college level educational performance data based on tests, assessments or exams for 2020.
- b) Evidence for some subjects, including Food and Art, has already been partially captured, teachers are supporting students to provide further evidence via webcam lessons and this will provide evidence to award a grade.
- c) What we know at the moment is that exam boards will work with teachers and use a mixture of prior tests, mocks and teacher assessment to provide grades.
  - 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 also 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.
  - 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.
- d) It is the Government's priority to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives and start College. Nadeline, our Connexions worker, will continue to support with this.
- e) We now know that in addition to the usual appeal process there will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who feel their calculated grade does not reflect their performance.

More information will be provided as soon as I am made aware of it. The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.

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