

Alderbrook School

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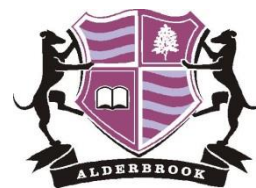
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ALA/ZMOS

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE and A Level Further Assessment

Following the most recent government guidance that subject teachers will provide a judgement based on school-derived assessment for GCSE and A Level candidates, it is clear that it is in the best interests of all Alderbrook School candidates that their own independent preparation for GCSE and A Level assessment continues as normal, so that students are ready for the next stage in their continuing education.

Teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. For students in both Year 11 and 13 we currently hold information that would enable us to make the suggested judgements reflecting the work they have put in. However, we know that students usually improve their performance after a thorough revision period and therefore it is of the utmost importance that students continue to produce high quality, independent work which indicates to staff their most recent performance. This work will be on classcharts, with deadlines that students must carefully adhere to. The individually prepared work that students continue to do (or not do) really will make a difference in allowing us to modify the information we currently hold and place our students in the best possible position to recommend the grades they deserve.

We would respectfully ask all parents/carers and students, not to contact individual staff about what these judgements might be for their individual child. This is an unnecessary burden for our staff to carry at this challenging time and as mentioned above, we are giving our students additional time over the coming weeks to influence this decision through their attitude to independent study and the resulting work produced.

Parents/carers should understand that the teacher judgement will be but one factor that the examining bodies will consider when issuing the standardised GCSE and A Level grades. Our judgements will be combined with other relevant data, including prior attainment (KS2 SATs/ GCSEs), mock exam results, and national historic distribution patterns for similar students, subjects, cohorts. Please note, no schools will be asked to submit their original predicted grades.

The aim at present is to provide these calculated GCSE and A Level grades to students before the end of July. If in July, students feel that their calculated grade does not reflect their performance, they will have the opportunity to use the month(s) afterwards as a secondary revision period and to sit an exam as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so.

Teaching staff are here to support students through these extraordinary times, and we'll continue to update parent/carers with relevant information as it becomes available to us. In the mean-time, the message from us is clear; GCSE and A Level candidates must continue to independently complete and submit the work set by their subject staff. We realise many parents will not be able to support their children with the academic content of their exam courses, so it is the responsibility of each child to commit to their studies over this time. In doing so, they will be giving themselves in the very best opportunity to achieve well this summer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Allen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs A Allen

Assistant Headteacher: Director of Sixth Form