

AWARDING GCSE, AS AND A LEVEL GRADES SUMMER 2020

CONTEXT

Due to the announcement made by the Education Minister Peter Weir MLA, on the 19th March 2020, the Summer 2020 examination series is cancelled. This is to help fight against the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

CCEA and Ofqual examination boards have provided all schools with details on how grades are to be awarded for GCSE, AS and A level (A2).

At Sperrin College, we want to ensure that the grades awarded will be fair and reliable, based on objective evidence. CCEA and Ofqual have clearly stated that their goal is to give grades that best reflect what pupils would have achieved had they sat the examination in normal circumstances and completed all coursework. We fully support this goal at Sperrin College.

THE PROCESS

All teaching staff, with the Heads of Department, will now engage in the process of submitting a centre assessment grade for every pupil within GCSE, AS and A Level. Teachers, with Heads of Departments, will then rank order the pupils within each grade.

CCEA and Ofqual, using this data, will then apply statistical standardisation to award the final grade.

The examining boards have the right to amend teacher grades (up or down) and the school will have no control over this process.

STAGE 1: A CENTRE ASSESSED GRADE

For every pupil, a centre assessed grade will be submitted to the examination board, for every subject that pupil has been entered for. This grade will be the mostly likely the pupil would have achieved had they sat their examination and completed all internally assessed components. This grade will be generated using professional judgement derived from academic evidence that is held within the school. All grades will be reviewed by the subject teachers, the Head of Department and Head of Centre (The Principal).

ACADEMIC EVIDENCE

For every pupil, the following are examples of what could be used.

Please note that evidence used may vary slightly from subject to subject.

- Records of each pupil's performance throughout their study of the Course-Class tests and assignments
- Mock Examination Results (with consideration of the fact that pupils may have improved since this exam)
- GCSE Modular Examination Results-For GCSE students Only
- AS Results-For A Level Pupils Only
- Resits-Expected outcomes in resit modules
- Classwork
- Bookwork
- Homework
- Participation in practical subjects such as: Drama, Music, PE etc.
- Performance in any controlled assessment/coursework or other assessments required for the qualification (even if this is not fully complete - For example, a projected grade will be given to controlled assessment based on what grade would have been achieved if it was fully complete)
- Tiers of Entry -GCSE

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

- Previous Results for the centre in the subject area
- The performance of this year's pupils compared to those in the previous two years, where possible
- Where pupils have prior agreed access arrangements

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION REQUESTS

If a pupil was unable to take an assessment or suffered a traumatic event that might affect their performance, unfortunately, special consideration requests **will not apply this Summer**. Instead, the teachers will calculate the grade on how the pupil would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in mock exams and classwork, teachers will give consideration to this when making their judgements.

STAGE 2: RANK ORDER

When all grades are calculated, a rank order will be applied. This will be completed by the class teacher and the Head of Department.

This rank order, along with the grade, will be sent to the examination board, following a review by at least two teachers including the Head of Department and Head of Centre.

STAGE 3: EXAMINATION BOARD STANDARDISATION PROCESS

The examination boards will use a statistical model to standardise grades in each subject. This process is to ensure that pupils are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged this summer.

STAGE 4: THE FINAL GRADE

Parents and pupils should be aware that due to the standardisation process, grades submitted by the school and the final grade calculated by the examining board could be different.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND MALPRACTICE

Parents and pupils **must not ask any member of staff** to tell them the grades or the rank order data the school will be sending to CCEA for any subject. This information is confidential and as such, the request may be considered as malpractice and will be reported to CCEA.

ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION OPPORTUNITIES

Pupils who feel that their grades from summer 2020 do not reflect their performance will be able to sit examinations at the next available opportunity. If a pupil chooses to do this, the higher-grade stands.

APPEALS PROCESS

Under the circumstances, CCEA have informed us that the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals will not apply. However, they are in the process of developing an effective appeals process. You will be informed when the information becomes available.

RESULTS

The examination boards are working hard to make sure results are published as soon as possible and have stated that results will be given no later than the dates published already. These are:

AS AND A LEVEL: 13th August 2020

GCSE: 20th August 2020

PROGRESSION

ENTRY TO SIXTH FORM: We are currently working on the assumption that all schools will resume normal work from September 2020, therefore, the normal procedure and process to Sixth Form will apply.

APPLICATIONS TO NRC AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS: All pupils will already have made applications to Technical Colleges during careers lessons. Pupils are advised to ensure they check emails, websites and post for important correspondence on admissions and entry.

UCAS AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS: Year 14 pupils must ensure they check regularly their UCAS account and emails for information on university admissions.