

**27 March 2020**

## **Y13 Parent Update**

Dear Year 13 Parents & Carers,

I trust that you are all well, and that life at home is not too stressful. I will keep this very brief, as there is very little new information available.

The answer that we all want on how A-Level grades are going to be awarded has not come through yet, but we are promised more guidance on how we should prepare forecast grades next week, and detail on the full process by Easter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams>.

UCAS has also been in touch with schools and students to say that the process has not fundamentally changed, and nobody should make hasty decisions at this stage. All offers stand, including unconditional offers, and the deadline for replying to universities has been extended by two weeks to 19 May. Next academic year should go ahead as normal, with enrolment and clearing as usual in the late summer. In other words, do nothing yet, and wait for the detail of how grades will be awarded.

We will also get the results of last week's mock exams to you as soon as possible. There will be a short delay, as some teachers are unwell and therefore not able to complete the marking. I anticipate having the results with you by Tuesday or Wednesday next week. I must emphasise that these grades are an important element in what we send to the exam boards, but not the full picture, especially as not all students sat all of the mock papers.

I would ask that students don't ask teachers to increase predicted grades. We will do our absolute best for our students, but inflating grades beyond a reasonable amount (everyone expects some increase between March and June) will put all students' grades at risk, as there will be some form of moderation by the exam board. Students should direct concerns to me or to Mr Whitlock rather than their subject teachers, as we have the best overview of university offers, likely outcomes and individual circumstances. As every year, I will be writing to university admissions departments with details of special consideration as they are making their final decisions on places. This has been very effective in the past, and will be this year as well.

I acknowledge that being in limbo and waiting for answers can be unsettling, but until we have greater clarity, students should engage fully with KAA@Home, and log into their Google Classrooms daily. It may well be that the work we are doing now will provide important evidence for our forecast grades; it certainly isn't worth taking the risk that what we do now won't count.

Please do get in touch if you have questions, and in the meantime, I hope you all have a calm and restful weekend.



**Rob Pavey**  
**Vice Principal – Sixth Form**