



March 25th 2020

----- **Information Update for all Year 11 students** -----

Dear students,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families our sincerest well wishes at this very difficult time. We genuinely hope that you and your loved ones are well, safe and that this continues to be the case in the forthcoming days and weeks ahead.

We are extremely sorry for the disappointment, worry and uncertainty that last Thursday's government announcement, regarding the cancellation of all examinations, must have caused you and your families.

As is to be expected, over the last few days we have been receiving a large number of telephone calls and emails from worried students and parents regarding the cancellation of this Summer's examinations and how examination grades will, as a result, be calculated and awarded.

The school, as of yet, has unfortunately received no information from the government, other than what has been detailed in the national press. As such, we are unsure exactly what information the government will request from schools in order to calculate examination grades. However, in preparation for any request we receive from the government, your teachers are currently preparing Predicted Grades for each of the subjects you study that you were due to complete this academic year. The latest information that has been released by the government can be found via this web address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The school is wholly committed to allocating Predicted Grades that fairly reflect the levels of effort, knowledge and understanding you have demonstrated throughout the course, through the Mock Examinations you have sat and since any Mock Examinations have been completed. We are very conscious that the Mock Examinations we set are very challenging indeed, often covering material that has not yet been fully taught and that every year, students in the school make significant progress following their Mock Examinations, resulting in the exceptional final examination achievements we have witnessed in recent years. As a result, it is very unlikely that your Predicted Grades will match your Mock Examination grades.

Further information on the methodology that the school will be using to calculate Predicted Grades is detailed below in a "Frequently Asked Questions" section as well as a range of other information that answers, as well as is possible at this stage, the queries that we have recently been receiving from students and parents. Please note that the school's expectations and recommendations regarding what work you should be completing over these coming weeks is detailed on the final page of the FAQ section and it is vital you read and follow this information carefully. It is particularly important you complete any outstanding coursework and BTEC assignments for the subjects you are studying.



Further communication will be sent to you, and your parents, as and when further information is issued by the government.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see first-hand how you and your peers have approached your studies with such diligence and maturity this academic year, the wonderful progress you have made and the example you have successfully set for all other students in the school. If you are moving onto new pastures next academic year, you will be sorely missed by the entire school community and we wish you the very best in your chosen pathway and beyond. If you do intend to continue your studies with us next academic year, we very much look forward to welcoming you back to St John's once the current national and international crisis has passed.

Best wishes again to you and your loved ones at this very difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Walton

Associate Head Teacher

Frequently Asked Questions – Examinations 2020

Will there be any examinations taking place this Summer?

There will be **no** BTEC, GCSE, AS or A level examinations taking place anywhere in the country in May/June 2020 due to the outbreak of Coronavirus. This decision has been taken by the government.



Will I still receive a grade for each of the examinations I was due to sit this Summer?

Yes. You will be awarded grades for each of the GCSE and BTEC subjects you were studying and due to finish this academic year.

Your teachers are currently preparing Predicted Grades for all of the subjects you have studied this year. The school is expecting to submit these grades to the government in due course and hoping that the government will use these grades as a basis for deciding which grade each student is to be awarded.

Please see the "Predicted Grades" section below for information on how the school is formulating your Predicted Grades.

When will I receive my Grades?

The government are hoping that you will receive your examination grades by the end of July. The exact date that you will receive your grades has yet to be confirmed by the government.

Can I appeal against the Grades I am awarded?

Yes, but only if you believe that the correct process* has NOT been followed.

* The government will be announcing the process it will be using to award grades in due course.

How will my Predicted Grades be created by the school?

The school is very conscious of the fact that the Mock Examinations it sets are very challenging indeed, often covering material that has not yet been taught fully and that every year, students in the school make significant progress following their Mock Examinations, resulting in exceptional achievements in the final examinations.

As such, the Predicted Grades you will be awarded will be based on the following factors as well as your performance in Mock Examinations and other assessments.

- Effort and Performance in Lessons
- Effort and Performance on Coursework (where applicable)
- Effort and Performance on Homework Activities
- Effort and Performance in Intervention / Revision sessions (where applicable)
- Attendance to Lessons and Intervention / Revision sessions (where applicable)
- Anticipated improvement between the Mock Examination period and the Summer examination period



Will I be able to see my Predicted Grades?

Yes. The school will generate a report that details each of your Predicted Grades in the first week after the Easter holiday. Given that the school is currently closed and the vast majority of staff are having to work remotely, the school is yet to make a decision as to how these reports will be issued to you. It is, however, the school's intention that these reports will be issued in the first week after Easter.

Given the vast amount of Predicted Grades that need to be formulated and the checking procedures that need to be undertaken, your teachers will not be able to issue you with your Predicted Grades prior to reports being issued.

Please note that the government will be deciding how final grades will be calculated and awarded. It is our hope that the government will use the Predicted Grades that are issued by the school as a basis for deciding which grade each student is to be awarded.

Will I be able to see my Mock Examination Grades?

Yes. The school will generate a report detailing each of your Mock Examination Grades in the first week after the Easter holiday. Please note that this will be a different report to the one that details your Predicted Grades. Given that the school is currently closed and the vast majority of staff are having to work remotely, the school is yet to make a decision as to how these reports will be issued to you. It is, however, the school's intention that these reports will be issued in the first week after Easter.

Will Predicted Grades be used by the government to decide what grade I actually receive?

The government has indicated it will use the following information to calculate final grades:

- Teacher Judgement based on Mock Exams and non-exam assessment
(The school is currently formulating Predicted Grades for each student which it hopes and expects to issue to the government in due course as its "Teacher Judgement" grades)
- Prior attainment
(This could be a student's performance in English and Maths at Key Stage 2)

Please note that the government will be deciding how final grades will be calculated and awarded. It is our hope that the government will use the Predicted Grades that are issued by the school as a basis for deciding which grade each student is to be awarded.



Will I be allowed to sit my examinations next year if I wish to?

Yes. All Year 11 students, regardless of where they are being educated, trained or employed next academic year, will be invited to return to the school in order to undertake any examinations that were cancelled this academic year if they wish to do so.

Should I complete any coursework and BTEC assignments that I have not yet finished?

Yes. It is the school's intention to submit all coursework and BTEC assignment grades, and wherever possible, the actual coursework/BTEC assignments you have completed, to examination boards.

It is also the school's intention to factor in your effort and performance on the coursework/BTEC assignment elements of any given course, when formulating the Predicted Grades you are to be awarded by the school.

Should I continue working in the subjects that I was due to sit examinations for?

Yes. You should prioritise all outstanding coursework and BTEC assignments for the reasons detailed in the section above.

It is very important that you continue working until the government has decided what information it requires from schools and advises that students can cease their studies.

Any work you do now will also be of huge benefit if you decide you wish to return to the school next academic year in order to sit the examinations that have been cancelled this academic year. Continuing with your studies will also stand you in very good stead for your future academic pathways if you wish to pursue your studies at Sixth Form or College.
