



Kidbrooke Park Road
London SE3 9PX

t: 020 8856 0115
f: 020 8331 3004
www.thomastallischool.com

Head: Carolyn Roberts
e: headteacher@thomastallis.org.uk

23 March 2020

Dear Year 11 Parent or Carer

Further details on arrangements for exams which have been cancelled to fight spread of coronavirus

I am sure you will by now be aware of the government's plans regarding the awarding of grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. If not, the full briefing paper can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>.

In summary, this year's summer exam series, including your child's GCSEs and other qualifications, have been cancelled as part of the fight to stop the spread of coronavirus. The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring that year 11 students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will 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. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to.

To produce this calculated grade, your child's 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 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.

We await further details on exactly how this process will work, and we will provide you with further information as soon as possible. The aim seems to be to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.

Thank you for bearing with us at this difficult time. Please rest assured that our priority will be to ensure that our year 11 students do not face any disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

We hope that you and yours are all in good health,

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Roberts
Head

Jon Curtis Brignell
Deputy Head Curriculum