



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Year 11 and 13 Students

Dear Parents and Carers,

These really are extraordinary times. In writing to you today I hope I can try to offer some clarity in what remains a relatively unclear phase of education provision in the country. However, I am acutely aware that we are all awaiting clarity from Ofqual on exactly how examination grades will be awarded and the effect that will have.

The announcement to withdraw external GCSE or A-Level examinations and awarded grades based on information from the school remains unclear. However, we have had assurance from the Department for Education that this process will be completed by July. Although we have received no specific details confirming how grades for all examinations will be awarded there has been an indication that they will be based on teacher assessment taking into account a range of evidence. The range of evidence may include non-examination assessment (previously referred to as coursework). The school will submit grades to the examination boards who will then also consider prior attainment before the examination board then calculate the final grade that a student will be awarded. As soon as we know the exact process we will be working assiduously to provide the best, and fairest, possible grade for each student based on all of the knowledge we have.

Ofqual have been clear that there will be examinations in September or October for any student who feels that the awarded grade does not reflect their true ability. We would advise all Year 11 and 13 students to consider their need to prepare for the possibility that they may want to improve a grade awarded by the exam board by sitting a formal examination.

The following link provides the latest information on the current situation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Year 11 Students Specifically

We recommend that students complete revision of GCSE material in any subject they may consider selecting for Sixth Form, this includes reserve subjects as well as firm choices. They should also complete and maintain revision in any subject that may be borderline, in preparation for them having to take an examination in September. It is very important that they have a full and firm grasp of the syllabus before entering the next stage of their education as this will be based on the assumption that they have completed and have a good understanding of the Key Stage 4 course. In September all students returning to Year 12 will undergo an examination, in each subject that they wish to complete at A Level, to demonstrate that they are capable of completing the A level course. The examinations will also enable staff and students identify areas where further support may be needed. This examination will be similar to a GCSE in its design and content.

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When students have completed all the past papers for a subject, I would then suggest that they access the huge amounts of material available online. We would prefer our students to arrive in September with the ability to achieve 75+ out of 80 on any GCSE paper he was presented with rather than attempting to extend their learning into A-Level contexts at this stage.

Entry into Sixth Form will be through our standard application process and against the admissions criteria that was published last year. The information is available on the website at: <https://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/page/?title=Entry+to+the+Sixth+Form+%28Year+12%29&pid=826>.

The school will work with individuals to ensure that the Sixth Form offer for each student is appropriate. We will, at this unusual time, follow the same procedures that we have always done.

Year 13 Students Specifically

It is difficult for us to individually recommend reading and content in preparation for the numerous degree courses that the students will follow. However, the courses that students have indicated a preference to follow are likely to assume the same starting point as last year and so students should complete their revision as intended so that they are in the best possible position to start the next stage in their education. There may be situations where your son feels that the grade awarded by the examination board does not represent their true ability. If this is the case then they will need to take the additional examinations. Students need to be prepared for such an eventuality.

Preparation for university places can be further enhanced if students complete a number of independent research projects or MOOCS which can be found on Unifrog, the school's online careers and information partner. Any student wishing to explore this option will need to register an account with Unifrog using the form code **Year13kings20** at the following link <https://www.unifrog.org/code>. As students register we will forward them the relevant information to discover the exciting MOOC opportunities within the Unifrog platform.

We are enormously proud of the fine gentlemen that both our Year 11 and Year 13 have developed into over the past years and share their disappointment at not having the opportunity to show their ability in the formal examinations. I know that they will work to remain focussed and reflective whilst continuing to work on their knowledge and prepare themselves for their next great adventure. I hope that the information we have outlined here will help to prepare them for the next step.

We will continue to inform you of how grades will be awarded as the information becomes available to the school.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Pickett
HEAD MASTER