

Friday 3 April 2020

Dear parents this is our weekly/Easter bulletin. I do hope that you and your families are remaining healthy and safe. We have continued to stay open for parents of key workers and also for our most vulnerable students. This will continue next week. If you have not let us know that you need this provision and you find yourself for example as a key worker having to work over the bank holiday weekend please let us know. At the moment we are not opening for Good Friday or bank holiday Monday as no one has requested this provision.

Thank you all for supporting your son/daughter in their studies at home if you have any concerns or queries of how we can improve communication or the work we are setting then please contact office@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk. We do think it is important that students have a break from their studies over Easter so we have not set formal work but a set of challenges so please let us know how you get on.

We know this may be an anxious time particularly for Year 11 and Year 10 and the sixth form and we have included specific information regarding arrangements for them below and more detail will follow. Once again I wish you and all your families the very best.

Mrs C Horrocks
Principal

Further Update on 2020 Exams from Ofqual

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From:

[Ofqual](#)



Since the Secretary of State for Education announced that the 2020 exam series in England would be cancelled to help fight the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have worked at speed to develop a process which fairly recognises students' work and makes sure they get their grades in time to progress. We have today, Friday 3 April, set out [details about how GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded this summer](#) and published further [guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers](#).

For this summer's awards, schools and colleges are being asked to provide centre assessment grades for their students. These should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades schools and colleges believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams, and should take into account the full range of available evidence.

Sally Collier, Chief Regulator, Ofqual, said:

School or college based assessment already has an important role in many GCSEs, AS and A levels and in extraordinary circumstances such as these, schools and colleges are best placed to judge the likely performance of their students at the end of the course.

We have worked closely with the teaching profession to ensure that what we are asking is both appropriate and manageable, so that everyone can have confidence in the approach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers and school leaders for making this process work for students during these very challenging times.

We have published a [message to students](#) to reassure them that we, and exam boards, will do everything we can to make sure that, as far as possible, grades are fair and that they are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

Exam boards will be contacting schools, colleges and other exam centres after Easter asking them to submit, by a deadline that will be no earlier than 29 May 2020, the following:

- a centre assessment grade for every student in each of their subjects: that is, the grade they would be most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams and completed any non-exam assessment. Judgements should balance different sources of evidence such as:
 - classwork
 - bookwork
 - any participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama or PE
 - any non-exam assessment – whether or not complete
 - the results of any assignments or mock exams
 - previous examination results – for example, for any re-sitting students or those with relevant AS qualifications
 - any other records of student performance over the course of study
- the rank order of students within each grade for each subject – for example, for all those students with a centre assessment grade of 5 in GCSE maths, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on. This information will be used in the statistical standardisation of centres' judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across all schools and college
- a declaration from the Head of Centre making the submission

We know many private candidates (students who have been home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) are anxious to know how these arrangements might be applied to them. Heads of centre have been asked to provide centre assessment grades for private candidates registered to take exams with their centre and include them in the rank order where they are confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of the student's achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for students who need results this summer to progress and for whom a centre assessment grade is not possible. It may, unfortunately, be necessary for some to take exams in the autumn or next summer to get their grades. We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider private candidates when making admissions decisions this summer. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

To make sure that grades are as fair as possible across schools and colleges, exam boards will put all centre assessment grades through a process of standardisation using a model being developed with Ofqual. We will consult on the principles of our model shortly, but we expect it will look at evidence such as the expected national outcomes for this year's students, the prior attainment of students at each school and college (at cohort, not individual level), and the results of the school or college in recent years. It will not change the rank order of students within each centre; nor will it assume that the distribution of grades in each subject or centre should be the same. The process will also recognise the past performance of schools and colleges. However, if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more severe or generous than others, exam boards will adjust the grades of some or all of those students upwards or downwards accordingly.

Schools and colleges have been told that they must not share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued. This is to protect the integrity of centres' judgements, and to avoid anyone feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students' expectations. We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August and ideally will be released a little earlier, so students can have the certainty they need.

Weekly Bulletin

We are all focused on making sure students are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances, including allowing for an appeal where appropriate. We will consult on proposals for specific appeal arrangements soon.

Students will also have the opportunity to sit exams at the earliest reasonable opportunity in the new academic year - we are working across the sector to plan for how and when these additional exams will take place. Many students will be taking other general and vocational or technical qualifications instead of or alongside GCSEs, AS and A levels. While this process does not apply to those qualifications, the same aims apply. We are working as quickly as possible to develop an approach and we will provide further information as soon as we can.

Further information

The Department for Education have published [a letter from the Secretary of State for Education](#) directing Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual to make changes to allow students to receive calculated results for GCSEs, AS and A levels this year.

STEM Activities For Families To Do At Home

https://www.stem.org.uk/in-school-activities?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=Browse%20here&utm_campaign=Hom%20learning%20activities%20update%2025.03.20

https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=Browse%20here&utm_campaign=Hom%20learning%20activities%20update%2025.03.20

Home Learning Help for Parents

Home Learning work is being set by teachers through both Go4Schools and Google Classroom, so it is important that students are accessing both where necessary. Please check the guidance sent out last week that explains how your child should access work for each of their classes.

Options for Year 8

The blocks for next year will be as follows:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art and Design	Art and Design	Computing	Child Development
Drama	Film Studies	Food Technology	Information Technologies
Geography	French	Geography	Engineering Design
Product Design	Food Technology	History	Performing Arts (Dance)
PE GCSE	Geography	PE GCSE	Enterprise (Business)
Photography	History	Psychology	Sports Studies
Sociology	Product Design	Spanish	Creative Media Production
Foundation learning	Foundation learning	Foundation Learning	

*** Mrs Ager will be contacting parents separately with detailed information on the foundation learning pathway*

Guidance when selecting options

Students will not be able to take art and Photography together (these are effectively the same course but with a different output/media).

- In order to ensure breadth of curriculum our suggestion is that students select a variety of subjects, across different subject areas. This shows colleges/sixth forms/employers that they have a broad range of skills. We would therefore suggest that students take no more than one subject from each of the blocks below

Humanities	Performing Arts	Languages	PE	DT and Computing
Sociology	Film Studies	Spanish	PE	Product Design
Psychology	Music	French		Food Technology
History	Art	German		Computing
Geography	Drama			
	Photography			

English Baccalaureate

As was discussed on the options evening we would strongly suggest that students consider the English Baccalaureate when they are selecting their subjects, this is not a qualification in itself. It is a particular group of GCSE subjects looked upon favourably by universities. The English Baccalaureate subjects are

- English and Maths
- Two Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Computing)
- A Modern Foreign Language *
- History or Geography *

While students may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at Key Stage 4 gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school, and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. Students do not need to have studied all of these subjects to go to university, but having options steered towards the English Baccalaureate subjects will help keep their options open. If students are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

* **Facilitating subjects** are the subjects most commonly required/preferred by universities, to get on to a range of degree courses. They help you keep your options open when choosing a degree, and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A-level in a facilitating subject when you apply.

Need some more information?

Students should have copies of the options booklet at home, or alternatively the booklet is available electronically in the following area of the website

<http://www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk/Guided-Options>

If you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me via wardk@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk.

Mrs Ward

Year 11 Preparation for A Level Tasks

A number of tasks have been placed onto the website (Menu > Sixth Form > A Level Preparation Tasks) for **ALL** Year 11 students intending to study at The Elizabethan Sixth Form. Please select the courses you intend to study at Key Stage 5 and complete the relevant task. This will form part of the first few lessons when you enrol in September so make them good.

Year 11 English and Maths Functional Skills tasks

As we know the core subjects of English and Maths will be vital in the real world moving forward. So to help students prepare for this, after Easter there will be a number of English and Maths functional skills tasks placed on the website (Menu > Sixth Form > Functional Skills) for ALL Year 11 students to complete unless studying these subjects at A Level.

Year 11 Interviews

In previous years, students have been interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in order to give guidance and to prepare them for their next steps in their education...more details will follow via email as to how we intend to do this after the Easter break.

Additional Guidance for Year 10

Year 10 received their reports and latest tracking last week as well as the results for their BTEC exam unit. Normally when results are issued, staff are available in person to explain and reassure students about any level or grade they have achieved. Obviously in the current climate we are all having to adapt, but class teachers are still available by email to answer any questions you may have about the reports or the BTEC results.

BTECs involve exams and coursework elements so these examined units are just a part of the qualification your child is studying for. Please remember also that this was an initial sitting of the unit and there will be an opportunity to re-sit this exam during 2021. If students have not met their target, then over the coming weeks it is very important they complete the necessary work and revision at home to prepare them for the re-sit.

We are aware that students in Year 10 could potentially miss a term's worth of GCSE and BTEC work in school and we are doing everything to ensure they do not fall behind. Please support us by making sure your child is completing the work set by their teachers and submitting it regularly for feedback.

Hardship

Any families experiencing difficulties to let us know as we are investigating setting up foodbank/meals at the school.

Easter Sessions

School will be open during the Easter break for the children of key workers and for our vulnerable students. We will not be open on Good Friday or Easter Monday unless required by our key worker parents. Over the weekend we will email some suggestions for Easter enrichment family activities and the challenge to complete at least one a day as a break from home - schooling

Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online which we have shared with you previously. Below are some other useful links to help you:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Please be aware that our children are at a greater risk of online abusers during lockdown as detailed in the news today ... The National Crime Agency and the NSPCC have warned of the heightened danger to children posed by the coronavirus lockdown. The NCA said that parents should be vigilant in protecting their children online, as it has reported a sharp increase in online grooming since the start of the lockdown. The agency estimates that there are currently 300,000 child sex offenders in the UK, including around 250,000 that use the dark web to access child pornography. The NSPCC said that abusers were seeing an "unprecedented opportunity" to target vulnerable children, as tech giants have reduced human moderation. Meanwhile, Zurich's Safer Schools initiative and the Ineqe Safeguarding Group has conducted a survey showing a 17% increase

in children livestreaming since schools closed, with 40% of children saying that they livestreamed video of themselves to strangers.

Remember to email safeguarding@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk if you are concerned about your child's safety and/or wellbeing. We have started a weekly student briefing to stay better connected with all our students and this will be distributed by your child's Head of House. Please encourage your child to log into their school email account regularly to stay up to date with news, activities and information ... it will be similar to our weekly Pastoral Briefing which they are used to

Covid-19

Please ensure you are following government and public health advice on social distancing

- **Guidance on Staying at Home:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>
- **Guidance on Social Distancing:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>
- **Guidance on Vulnerable Children and Young People:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>
- **Guidance on Isolation for Residential Education Settings:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>
- **Guidance for Schools about Temporarily Closing:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>
- **Q&A for Parents and Carers (updated):** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>
- **Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020 Q&A:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>
- **Free School Meals Guidance (updated):** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>