



In all things faithful

St Damian's RC Science College

Lees Road
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 8BH

Tel: 0161 330 5974

Fax: 0161 331 4744

Email: admin@stdamians.co.uk

Web: <http://www.stdamians.co.uk/>

Follow us on Twitter: @StDamiansRCSC

Find us on Facebook

Dear Parents / Carers,

Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

The Award of Examination Grades in Summer 2020

Following on from the Government announcement that all GCSE examinations in Summer 2020 will be cancelled, it has understandably been a worrying time for our Y11 students and their families. I am now in the position to share with you the information that the DFE has provided to schools so far.

The DFE have decided that students will be awarded examination grades following a 'calculated grade' process. The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.

Ofqual will develop a fair and robust process for the calculated grade process that will take into account a broad range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment, mock results, teacher assessment and prior attainment. The approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Students will not be awarded their 'predicted grades', this is too simplistic. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, is working urgently with the exam boards to set out details for how this process will work in practice. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly. Please be reassured that St. Damian's will adhere strictly to these guidelines. There is absolutely no need to contact school regarding this.

If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case, they will be able to appeal on that basis. Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

Colleges & apprenticeship providers have already confirmed that they will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to post 16 destinations.

At St Damian's, we will do everything we can to support our Y11 students in ensuring the award of fair examination grades and in assisting them in their progression to further education, apprenticeships and training.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M. Henshaw
Deputy Headteacher

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