

Examination Results (Years 11/10/9)

More details about the awarding of GCSE and other exam grades this summer have been released. There are no particular surprises – we will be asked to give a professional projected grade, based on all of the information to hand and we will then rank the students in each subject. These grades will then be centrally adjusted based on prior national and school results to give a statistically similar picture to previous years.

Some points to note:

- Grades and rankings will be based on the totality of information to hand including mocks, other assessments, class work and homework. No additional information or work is required and we cannot take any outside context into account.
- It has been made very clear to all schools that under no circumstances can the grades or rankings be divulged to students or parents. I would respectfully ask that no requests for this information are made.
- Although there is a consultation currently under way, the strong likelihood is that the same system will be used for students in Years 9 and 10 with summer exam entries – this is the opposite of initial proposals and good news for our early Sociology and English entries.
- Exam results will be issued on the same day as originally planned – Thursday 20th August.

Internet Safety

Without wanting to give the oxygen of publicity to any particular site, we have been made aware of websites that allow young people to talk and video chat with anonymous strangers. As you would expect, this is not sensible and there have been reports of young people being sexually propositioned or asked for explicit photos within minutes of joining.

If you have any concerns about any online activity you can report it to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOPS), which is an offshoot of the National Crime Agency, at www.ceop.police.uk

Assembly

There will be a live-streamed assembly that all students are welcome to attend on Thursday 23rd April at 10am (to give some time to cool down after Joe Wicks!) This will also be recorded for those unable to make it.

This will be done using Microsoft Teams, which is available as part of students' normal Office365 login. They can either join the "meeting" via the calendar in Teams or by clicking on the link in the email they will be sent. Please ensure that microphones and cameras are switched off.

I understand some smartphone web browsers might block access. If this is the case then there is a Microsoft Teams app that can be downloaded.

Unknowns

As we move further into this period of lockdown, we are hopefully managing to slowly answer the many questions that have arisen and adapt appropriately to the new situation. However, there are still some aspects of school life where we really don't yet know what is happening. These include:

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Summer term school trips, residentials and other activities
- New arrangements for the Year 11 Prom and awards ceremony
- Collecting sports kit and other belongings from school

Please bear with us and I promise you will be told as soon as there is anything to know!

Survey (Years 7-10)

As part of the email that this update is attached to, there is a link to a very quick survey that I would really appreciate you filling in over the next couple of days.

I would like to get a sense of the levels of engagement with home learning, whether we are getting the amount of work set about right and what access to technology our students have.

Thank you in advance for contributing to this.

As ever, I hope that you and your family are safe, happy and well.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a dot over the 'i' in 'Steele'.

Andy Steele
Headteacher