

06 April 2020

Coronavirus and summer 2020 exams

Dear Students and Parents,

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. I write to you to confirm the arrangements for the final weeks at school and what is being done to provide you with grades. This update and the information contained within this letter comes from HM Government in the United Kingdom and is to be adopted by all of the International Exams Boards, such as Cambridge and Pearson Edexcel.

End of School Arrangements

Students studying for IGCSE, AS and A-Level qualifications in Grades 10, 11 and 12 will continue online distance learning up until **Thursday 23rd April 2020**. During this time students will be given time to complete each course in full, whilst being able to further demonstrate their abilities through the work set by their subject teacher.

After Thursday 23rd April students in Grade 10, 11 and 12 no longer need to attend online distance learning lessons and have effectively finished the academic year. This date coincides with the same date students were originally due to finish school and go onto study leave.

Students in Grade 11, who are studying for the International Baccalaureate are expected to continue their studies up until the end of the school year.

How will grades be calculated?

RAK Academy anticipates being asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what we know about your work and achievements:

1. the grade your teacher believes you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
2. within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade.

The information we provide will be used by the exam boards to standardize judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges around the world. It is therefore highly possible your grade provided by the school to the exam board may be changed by exam boards as they look to standardize judgements this summer.

To determine the grade to be awarded by your teacher, we will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course. This information will allow the exam boards, to standardize grades and make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or

disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others. **This means that the final grade you get could be different from the one we send to the exam board.**

Can I see the grades RAK Academy submits to the Exam Boards?

No, the instructions given to the school is ensure that this information is kept confidential. The grades you are awarded could be different to those we send to the exam board and we cannot guarantee your final grade as this will be decided by the exam board as outlined above. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at RAK Academy, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they are not allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, the subject you were due to take an exam in you have not had timetabled lessons in school, this could include students re-sitting an exam, those that have been tutored at home or who have self-studied) we have been asked as a school to submit grades only when we as a school have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgment (evidence must be submitted electronically to the Exams Officer, no later than the 23rd April 2020). The exam boards are looking at alternative options for students who are unable to provide sufficient evidence to allow an objective judgement, however it is conceded by HM Government that *"Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades"*. Should you have a specific question regarding your situation, please email colin.guyton@rakacademy.org

I am in Grade 9 and was scheduled to take exams early – what does this mean for me?

Schools are not allowed to submit grades for students due to take exams early (i.e. should be taking exams at the end of Grade 10). This includes all students expecting to take English IGCSE this summer. Students entered for these exams and others will have their entry deferred until the autumn or a time when it is again deemed safe to hold public exams. Parents will receive a refund for the exam entry fee paid once it is returned to the school from the Exam Boards. We will update you once we are in receipt of this refund.

When will I get my results?

The exam boards have stated that exam results will be published as expected in August, further information will be provided once this is confirmed by the exam boards.

Can I take my exams another time?

The awarding of a student's final grade is expected to subject to an appeal if deemed necessary by the student, however, the exam board's decision is final and should after an appeal a student remain unsatisfied by the grade awarded students will need to sit the exam in the autumn when it is again deemed safe to hold public exams. Further information regarding arrangements for this are expected in August.

Further Information

The information given above that regards the awarding of grades remains subject to change and was up to date as of Monday 06th April 2020. You can however, look to find out more about the current arrangements, more detailed guidance; along with answers to other questions that students and parents might have.

- Her Majesty's Government (UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>
- Cambridge Assessment International Education
<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/>
- Pearson (Edexcel) Qualifications
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/news-policy/press-releases/2020/update-from-pearson-regarding-the-covid-19-coronavirus-outbreak.html>
- AQA
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus>

Please direct any questions you may have regarding the contents of this letter to Colin Guyton by emailing colin.guyton@rakacademy.org, who will look to replying with 48 hours of your email in light of the anticipated volume of questions and concerns likely to be raised.

Wishing you and your families well during these uncertain times, remember to Stay Safe and Stay Home

Yours sincerely,

Colin Guyton

Colin Guyton – Deputy Head of School (ISK)