



Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 students,

As you are all aware, exams for 2020 have all been cancelled in a bid to help fight the spread of the coronavirus. After so much hard work, I know that you will all be as disappointed as I am that you are not getting the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have honed over a number of years at school.

Ofqual have now published information on how students will receive grades in August 2020. Ofqual have published a video on YouTube which makes the whole process really clear – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q>  
BSL Version - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjhzvVOai8w&t=56s>

Schools have been asked to send two pieces of information on the students in Year 11:

- 1 – The grade the teacher believes they were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams would have happened as planned.
- 2 – For each subject: a list of students who are taking that subject, grouped by grade and then ordered by performance.

Schools are not required to set any additional mock exams or homework in order to decide on the grade, and students will not be penalised if they have not had any work set, or if they were unable to complete, any work which was given out after schools had closed.

The information that we send will then allow Ofqual, alongside the exam boards, to standardise grades across schools, so that as far as possible, results are fair and students are not advantaged or disadvantaged if a school is more generous/harsh than others when making grade judgments. This means that the final grades that students get could be different from the ones that the school sends to the exam board. For this reason, students will not be able to see the grades which are submitted for them, so please do not ask teachers for these grades as they will not be able to provide them.

If students opted for any subject which has an element of coursework (BTEC/Cambridge Nationals), they should still be completing the work which is set for them by their teachers as the collation of these grades will work slightly differently and some elements of the coursework will be included in deciding on a final grade for students.

Year 11 students should now be spending time ensuring they are ready to progress into their future provision. We will be making contact with all Year 11 students individually to ensure that they have applied for college/sixth form/apprenticeships and will then provide guidance on what students can be doing to ensure they are prepared for their move in to their next phase of education. If, as a student, you have not yet looked to secure a college/sixth form/apprenticeship position, you should be actively looking at what you can do next. Whilst colleges and sixth forms remain closed, a vast majority of them have a wealth of resources online that you can look through.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> form at NUSA is being redesigned for September 2020 as we look to offer more courses which lead to higher level future pathways. The courses that will be on offer are:

Health and Social Level 3 Extended Diploma

Public Services Level 3 Extended Diploma  
Business Studies Level 3 Extended Diploma  
Sport Level 3 Extended Diploma

Miss Fletcher, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form, has sent an email to all Year 11 students with further details on each of the courses and an application form to be completed if students are interested in any of the courses. Miss Fletcher is also going to send an additional letter to all parents with further details on 6<sup>th</sup> form provision.

It is really important that we celebrate the time you have spent at NUSA in the way that you deserve. Mr Kirkby and Miss Dabbs are currently working on organising the opportunity for all Year 11 students to order both leavers hoodies and year books and they will send additional information regarding this later in the term.

The Prom that we had arranged for June has now been postponed but will be rescheduled as soon as the venue is available for booking again. It is only right that all students get the opportunity to celebrate their time at NUSA with their peers and teachers. As soon as we have a revised date for the prom, we will be sure to send out further details.

We will provide you with any further details as and when we receive them.

Take care and stay safe,

Emma Howard  
Head of School