



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

27 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

We understand that this is an unprecedented and challenging time faced by all students and families. There are significant challenges to us all both personally and professionally. Please be assured that Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School and staff are objectively providing professional predicted grades based on all the guidelines outlined in the government guidance and communicated through the letter sent on 6 April 2020 and updated to the school website www.qegschool.org.uk/examinfo. No reports will be issued again this year.

Following some communication with staff at the school we feel it imperative that students and families are reminded about communication during these extraordinary times.

All the text that follows has been extracted from the Ofqual Document '**Exceptional arrangements for exam grading and assessment in 2020**'. We urge you to be mindful of this.

The statement explained the government's intention that "a grade will be awarded this summer based on the best available evidence, including any non-exam assessment that students have already completed. There will also be an option, for students who do not feel this grade reflects their performance, to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity once schools are open again".

Moreover, to secure the maintenance of standards in the exceptional circumstances of this summer it is important that teachers' professional judgements and the centre assessment grades are as objective, and candid, as possible. To secure this objectivity, it is important that teachers and Heads of Centre/School are free to make objective judgements and not subject to any external influence, for example from students or their parents and carers. We therefore consider that centre assessment grades and the judgements on which these are founded, should be confidential until after results.

To further protect the objectivity and reliability of the centre assessment grades and to give teachers and schools certainty in responding to students and others who might ask for that information, we propose that they should be prohibited from revealing this information other than in the context of a formal request under data protection law, following the release of results.

We therefore propose to require exam boards to treat any disclosure by any member of a centre's staff of centre assessment grades, rank order information, or the professional judgements which underpin them, to anyone not authorised by the Head of Centre/Head Teacher, as malpractice or maladministration, unless such disclosure is required by law or takes place only after final results have been issued

Our current rules in relation to the prevention, detection and management of malpractice and maladministration will remain in place this year. We recognise the possibility that some centres/schools, students and others may try to exploit the exceptional arrangements we propose to put in place this summer, including by seeking inappropriately to influence centre assessment grades or rank order information. We expect exam boards to make sure the arrangements they have in place to comply with our current rules are flexible enough to allow this to be investigated as potential malpractice, leading to the potential imposition of sanctions.

The consultation regarding all aspects of the examination process is still open until the end of April 2020. When we have the finalised guidance post consultation we will summarise and share the key points with families and students with regards arrangements and moving forward. Please bear in mind that this is all subject to change dependent on the wider challenges faced by us all today.

To summarise succinctly, there should be no communication in any format with any school staff about any subject in any aspect of student grades regarding their past, current or predicted progress.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Jones

Deputy Headteacher

Miss L Southwell

Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form