



26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 11 Students

I am writing to update you with the latest information available from the Department of Education regarding the cancellation of examinations this summer. We appreciate this is a stressful time for our young people and their families and we are working hard to offer support as we face and overcome the current challenges presented to us.

The examination regulator Ofqual, and examination boards continue their dialogue with teachers to establish the best way to provide grades to students whose examinations have been cancelled this summer. This takes some time as we find a way forward to ensure no student is disadvantaged. This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will be an option to sit an examination early in the next academic year for students who wish to. We will provide further information once this is known and published. For older students, university representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the examination boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The examination boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if examinations had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock examinations and non-examination assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The examination boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances. Ofqual and examination boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible.

**Principal – Miss Tina Lee**

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Therefore, with the above in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to remind our students that their attitude towards the work set by their teachers over the next few months will play a part in the teacher's assessment of their calculated grade. You will soon receive Mock 3 examination results in the post, which will provide students with an idea of how they were currently progressing towards gaining their qualifications. I implore students to digest their grades and where they have underperformed to contact their subject teacher and ask 'what do I need to do to evidence to you that I can work at a higher grade.' This includes option subjects where students may still have coursework not submitted or graded, teachers of these subjects will also have to provide evidence to the examination boards of your grading trackers.

We are now asking for your support to encourage your child to continue to complete the work set by teachers and submit all course content that remains outstanding. We are proud of the support we have from our families in our Academy and are confident that the positive relationships between our students and staff will contribute positively to our final outcomes. We know our students respond well to feedback so please continue to encourage your child to communicate with staff each day. This level of communication will also go some way to maintaining the well-being of our students as we navigate uncertainty together. By completing and submitting work regularly, we can be confident that we will secure any evidence that examination boards require to help them award final grades.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you need any reassurance or have any questions. I can be contacted on: [Nathan.Spocchia@oasisisleofsheppey.org](mailto:Nathan.Spocchia@oasisisleofsheppey.org)

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child through their academy career, we are always incredibly proud of what our Year 11 students go on to achieve and despite the current setbacks I am confident that this cohort of young people will have the necessary choices that will allow them to have happy and fulfilled lives. Please encourage your child to stay in touch via the Mentor daily email, or through Mr Wrighton and Mrs Lynch. It is also important we keep in touch and support any possible anxieties and/or mental health concerns during this unknown and challenging period.

Finally, please remember that we offer a wide range of Level 3 courses at our Sixth Form based on our Sheerness campus. If you would like more information regarding Sixth Form please contact [Helen.Curran@oasisisleofsheppey.org](mailto:Helen.Curran@oasisisleofsheppey.org)

With all best wishes for the future.

Miss Tina Lee  
Principal

Mr Nathan Spocchia  
Assistant Principal – KS4

Mr Ben Wrighton  
Year 11 Lead

Mrs Julie Lynch  
Year 11

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