

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I know that many of you are worried and confused about how your son/daughter will be graded this year. I would like to assure you that we will be doing everything that we can to ensure that our students get the best possible grades. The link below is the latest government guidance on what is going to happen now that the summer exams have been cancelled:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

It is clear from the guidance that a range of factors will be considered when deciding 'calculated grades', including consideration of coursework if applicable, teacher assessment and predictions and how much progress students would ordinarily make attending a specific college. Despite being closed we are continuing to work with your son/daughter online, using Google Classroom. It is important that your son/daughter completes the work that they have been set on Google Classroom as it may improve their final grade(s).

The Government is hoping to publish examination results by the end of July 2020, which is earlier than normal. This is helpful in terms of your son/daughter's progression. They have also stated that students who receive lower results than they were expecting will be able to appeal and that there will also be opportunities for them to take their exams during the next academic year, probably in the autumn as well as in the normal exam period in the summer. It is, therefore, important for your son/daughter to continue to revise and engage with the materials on Google Classroom, remembering that as long as their teachers remain fit and well that they will be available to help them. We will be unable to answer questions regarding the grades that are likely to be awarded until there is much more detailed guidance from government.

Your son/daughter completing all of the work is also important as it will improve their understanding of the course(s) that they have studied, which should in turn help them in the future. For Year 10 and 12 students, the work that we are expecting them to do is essential and will eventually be assessed and contribute to their final grades. Engaging with work that we have set will also provide structure to their day, which is important for their mental health and wellbeing.

I would be really grateful if you could encourage them as much as possible to work hard at home.

As a result of the increased social distancing measure introduced by government yesterday we will be closing the UTC building at the end of the day on 24<sup>th</sup> March until further notice. We will continue to maintain contact with our vulnerable children and families by telephone during this difficult period. Equally you can still contact us as previously communicated.

Yours sincerely



**Mr. L. Kilgour**  
**Principal**