

17 April 2020



Headteacher:
Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing today to provide you with a summary of key information regarding the awarding of GCSE and A Level results in 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to share the information that we can about the process that we are being asked to follow to award examination grades to our students this summer.

On the 3rd of April Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Exam Regulation) published guidance for schools on the principles and processes that schools must follow to provide the information to award grades for students this year. Please follow this link if you would like to read information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE and A level qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=9b49dbca-4d12-4712-9153-5398c78a5f67&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

At Cockermouth School, we have considered the guidance very carefully since its publication and set out a timetable of data collection, discussion and quality assurance that will mean, as is expected, students get the grades that they would most likely have achieved if they had sat the exams this summer. This is a detailed process that will be ongoing over the next six weeks. As one of the highest performing schools nationally, at both GCSE and A Level, it is reassuring for us that there is an expectation in the guidance documents that the additional progress that students make at a high-performing school should be factored into the judgements that are made. Please can I emphasise that we are not allowed to discuss or share any of the judgements we are being asked to make with students or parents. Schools have been told very clearly that doing so would constitute malpractice. I can share with you that it was announced on Friday that **Year 13 students will receive their exam results on 13 August** and **Year 11 students will receive their results on 20 August**, as would have been the case had exams taken place. We will be in touch again to inform you how we will manage these results days at Cockermouth School.

Ofqual guidance suggests that students will be able to sit some exams, should they wish to aim higher than the grade awarded. Please note that at this time, there is no information about which exams would be available to sit. When results are published in the summer, if there are students who wish to sit an available exam, we will ensure that course materials and support are available. If any Year 11 student wishes to continue with their GCSE studies in the meantime, they should contact their teacher directly via Firefly. For additional information about curriculum support for all students, please see the curriculum update sent out to all parents on Friday afternoon.

Please can I conclude by extending my best wishes to all of you and your families.

Richard King
Head of School

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