



Notre Dame

CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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Principal: Justine Barlow

June 1st 2020

Dear all,

Centre Approved Grades and Assessment

In light of recent enquiries, I would like to clarify the DfE and the College's position on Centre Approved Grades (CAGs). Please see the document below for further detail:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886978/6614-3_Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

The College will submit CAGs per student per subject to the relevant exam board, these are then **subject to change. The College **WILL NOT** know any student's final grade until results day. Please do not contact College with enquiries about grades until after the results are published in August.**

Background:

'On 18 March 2020, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the summer 2020 GCSE, AS and A level exam series would be cancelled in order to help fight the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and that students due to sit the exams would be awarded a grade based on an assessment of the grade they would have been most likely to achieve had exams gone ahead.

On 23 March, in a written statement to Parliament, the Secretary of State explained the government's intention that results would be issued to this year's cohort based on a range of evidence and data, including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. School or college-based assessment already has an important role in many GCSEs, AS and A levels and in extraordinary circumstances such as these, schools and colleges are best placed to judge the likely performance of their students at the end of the course.

Ofqual and exam boards will do everything we can to make sure grades awarded this year are as fair as possible for students. **This will include putting all centre assessment grades through an external standardisation process to better ensure that grades are comparable between schools and colleges.'**



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EXTERNAL STANDARDISATION of CAGs

The College will submit CAGs per student per subject to the relevant exam board for the subject, these are then subject to change. The College WILL NOT know any student's final grade until results day.

'To make sure that grades are fair between schools and colleges, exam boards will put all centre assessment grades through a process of standardisation using a model developed with Ofqual.'

BTEC/CTEC Centre Approved Grades (CAGs)

For both BTEC (Lower 6th and Upper 6th) and CTEC (Upper 6th) courses the College will submit CAGs per student per incomplete coursework unit to the relevant exam board, these are then **subject to change**.

Only the exam board, **NOT STAFF**, will award any examined unit grades unless the student has already taken the exam and has a grade.

The only exception is: any Lower 6th students on a CTEC course. Where possible, these students will be required to complete any incomplete first year units and sit first year exams, however, if this is not possible due to workload, the exam board, **NOT STAFF**, will award CAGs for these units.

Further detail can be found in this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887046/Guidance_Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications_22_MAY2020.pdf

Assessment at Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form:

This starts in lower 6th and these are progressive assessments, they indicate to both students and their teachers how well each student is doing up to that point, based upon the learning that should have taken place up to that point. It is a great indicator if extra support needs to be put in place and alternatively if further stretch and challenge should be offered. We do not view any one assessment in isolation, it is always seen within the context of the progress made to any



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particular point. For CAGs we have used all the assessment information we have for each student to submit a Centre Approved Grade per subject.

Please be assured: 'The grades awarded to students should have equal status to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. On the results slips and certificates, grades will be reported in the same way as in previous years. This approach will enable students to move onto the next stage of their education or employment in the autumn as planned.'

Careers are continuing to send out regular updates and can be contacted as normal. If you have any concerns about your university admissions or would like details about career options, this team of experts are here to help you. They can be contacted at:

careers@notredamecoll.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Justine Barlow