

4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Awarding of grades for Yr 11 and Yr 13 students- Summer 2020**

Dear Parent and students in Year 11 and Year 13,

We have now received the information from Ofqual regarding the method by which exam results are to be awarded. The letter to students from Ofqual is a separate attachment in the email.

*This* letter will set out what Ofqual is asking from schools, as well as answering some of your questions. This letter is based on the guidance from Ofqual; we have no more information than this.

By the end of May, we will have to submit the following for each grade which is to be awarded:

- A **centre assessment grade** for each student – i.e. the grade that each student is most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams. This professional judgement will be derived from what we know about the student, the usual rates of progress, student motivation and attitude, performance within class, homework and mock results. Performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA) can also be considered even if this had not been fully completed. It has been made clear that schools must bear in mind that many students achieve a higher grade on their NEA than in their exams, so the judgments are not allowed to be based on the NEA alone.
- All grades will need to have been **reviewed by subject teachers and heads of department**. We will also have to submit the **rank order of students** within each grade – for example, for all those students with a grade B in A level Maths, where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on.
- Once centre assessment grades have been submitted, exam boards will carry out a process, being developed with Ofqual, to statistically standardise the grades between different centres. At this point, the **school's previous results' history** will be taken into account.

This above applies to all GCSE, A level and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Information on other Ofqual regulated qualifications, including **BTEC's**, will be provided at a later date and I will write again specifically to those students when I

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### Some questions that you and your child are likely to be asking

#### Will we be informed of the grade and rank that The Compton School is submitting for me/my child?

As you will have read in the guidance yourselves, it has been made very clear, **centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students** with students, or their parents or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued. Using Ofqual’s own words, “this is to protect the integrity of teachers’ judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students’ expectations”.

#### Will the grades the school submit be the grade I receive?

As mentioned above, once centre assessment grades have been submitted, exam boards will carry out a process, being developed with Ofqual, to statistically standardise the grades between different centres. This will involve looking at:

- 1) previous examination results by that individual (KS2 results and GCSE results for Year 13 students)
- 2) expected grade distributions at national level results in previous years at The Compton School

As such, the grades we submit may be lowered or upgraded by the exam board. We will try to ensure that the grades we submit are as realistic as possible so that the exam boards do not feel the need to change them. Clearly, the outstanding results in previous years by students at The Compton School will be a benefit to students.

#### Will I be able to appeal my grade?

The normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals will **not** apply. Ofqual are considering what arrangements might be put in place to allow an effective appeal and will consult on proposals shortly.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series. Ofqual have not suggested when this may be, or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

#### I believe I would have merited special consideration for my exams. What do I need to do?

Special consideration requests, will **not apply** this summer. Instead judgements from school will reflect how we believe students would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Knowing our students very well, we are also perfectly placed to

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consider how illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance over the years including in mock exams or such like. Through our regular reporting cycle, you should already be aware of the rate of progress your child has been making.

This whole process of collecting grades, ranking students and departmental moderation will take some time for subject teachers, heads of department and senior teachers to complete. After the Easter holidays we will be working with our staff to ensure that the process is clear and understood by all. Please do not contact teachers regarding your child’s grade, as they are not allowed to discuss the grade given to the exam board.

To finish by addressing the students, I can only end by reiterating that which I shared in my first letter regarding the public examinations: we know that performance often improves between the mocks and the final exams, more so for some than others. We know that, after your mocks, some of you realised just how hard you actually needed to be working, that you did up your game and were already seeing the fruits of that. We know that the majority of you had been working incredibly hard for a very long time and that the cancellation of your examinations has been devastating for you. We understand that, for others, additional provisions were being discussed which may have helped you achieve even better in your exams.

We also understand our professional duty to be fair and to make decisions based on evidence. Our grades must be robust and realistic, we will use all of the evidence that we have on your performance to date to arrive at the fairest grade for you. We want to ensure the **fairest and best** outcomes possible for you all during these unsettling times and we will be working hard to ensure just that.

### Future Work?

Your teachers will **not** be setting any further new work for your *current* courses. From this moment on, you **do not** need to complete any more work for you GCSEs or A Level courses. After the Easter holidays staff will set work to help you transition to the next phase of your education, for example, Year 11 you will be set “bridging work” to help you prepare for your future courses. Year 13 you will be set reading and work to help with your future courses at university. It is important that you keep your brain active and learning regardless of your plans moving forward.

I would also like to remind students that we will organise an event for each year group, when it is safe to do so, to acknowledge the end of your key stage and to celebrate your achievements. We are also working in the background to ensure you have a yearbook and for Year 13 a hoodie. We will write again to you with more information about this next term.

Please continue to read the weekly newsletter as there will be important information

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**COMPTON SCHOOL**

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communicated through it, for example, deadlines for applying for financial support for university.

Until that time, please stay safe and know that we are sending you our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



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