

A message for all GCSE students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. I wanted to provide an update and let you know what Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) are doing to provide you with grades.

Their over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to the next level at college, starting university, apprenticeships in the autumn, getting a job or gaining employment because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

The College is being asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what we know about your work and achievements:

- the grade we believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at our college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges.

We will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course. This information will allow Ofqual and exam boards to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one we send to the exam board.

Do I need to continue working towards my GCSEs?

We advise that you keep studying until we have submitted your grade to the awarding organisation.

The next few weeks provide a really good opportunity for you to develop your knowledge and skills so that you are in the best possible position to progress as planned to the next stage of your life.

Can I see the grades the College submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

Cont.



Northampton College

at Northampton Booth Lane, Northampton NN3 3RF Tel: 01604 734 567 Fax: 01604 734 207

at Lower Mounts Northampton NN1 3DE Tel: 01604 734 567 Fax: 01604 736 216

at Daventry Badby Road West, Daventry NN11 4HJ Tel: 01327 300 232 Fax: 01327 300 942 www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk
enquiries@northamptoncollege.ac.uk

When will I get my results?

Ofqual are working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally, they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

Ofqual are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks. The information we have published covers GCSEs. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

Best wishes,

Pat Brennan-Barret
Principal

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