



Contact:

Ref: PKI/SST

10th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. I am writing to you regarding the announcement from Ofqual (regulator who oversees the national examination process) in relation to GCSE summer examinations.

I know that this is a difficult time, but it is important to remember that Ofqual have made it clear that their main focus is to be fair to students and ensure they are not disadvantaged. The whole education system is working hard to make sure students are looked after and able to move onto the next step of their education.

Guidance released by Ofqual on how grades will be calculated and a letter to students can be found on our website. https://www.brookeweston.org/_site/data/files/C02E0AE8AC56C6C364CB3B72A76D99B5.pdf Please take the time to read through the information provided, which should answer many of your questions.

We understand you will be anxious about the situation, but it is important to note that ***the Academy or staff cannot respond to questions or release information about students' grades.***

As a result of this announcement, many of you have contacted the Academy to ask if your child should continue with the home learning we have provide. We suggest the following approach in line with the Ofqual guidance provided.

- **Ofqual:** *"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 or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand".*
- **Ofqual:** *"We believe the priorities for pupils in Year 11 and 13 are to ensure that they complete the curriculum in subjects which they wish to pursue in the following year.*

This situation we currently face will end and academic life will resume as normal. Students will all go on to the next stage of their education and they need to be prepared for this. To ensure that students have relevant work in order to prepare for their next steps, the Academy will be doing the following:

1. **Online work** - work has been set in subjects to allow students to complete their relevant GCSE studies. The date that these studies will end is Friday 8th May 2020 (the end of Term 4). After this date there will be no more online GCSE work for students to complete. Revision can continue with supplied revision materials.
2. **Coursework** – Any coursework or portfolios must be kept safe and could be used for evidence in any future appeals. There is no further requirement to continue with coursework.
3. **BWA Sixth Form preparation** - once studies are complete, Sixth Form resources for the subjects available at Brooke Weston Academy, have been set on Teams. These are a combination of resources and instructions uploaded to Teams, and links to various online resources that should be completed to help students prepare.

[Teams – Year11 Students – Transition work for Sixth Form](#)

For any student considering taking the EPQ in the Sixth Form, this online course gives excellent preparation and guidance. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>

4. **Other Sixth Form/College/Apprenticeship** - If your child is preparing for studies outside Brooke Weston Academy, we would recommend that they speak to the provider to ensure that they have resources to prepare with. Sixth Forms similar to Brooke Weston Academy will allow students to prepare using resources we have provided.

In order to ensure this information is clear we have compiled the following possible scenarios for students:

I might consider retaking exams and/or are concerned about achieving a grade 4 or 5 in English and mathematics

We would recommend that you continue to engage with your subjects including English and mathematics until the end of Term 4 in order to ensure you are best placed to achieve the grades if you decide to retake examinations.

I am applying to continue my Sixth Form studies at Brooke Weston Academy

We would recommend that you complete your GCSE studies and then the Sixth Form subject resources provided. We recommend that you prepare for a number of different subjects (at least 5) in case you cannot do an initial choice. If you are concerned about whether you would be a suitable candidate to study the A-Level in a particular subject please speak to your subject teacher. Please see link to our entry criteria for the Sixth Form <https://www.brookeweston.org/page/?title=Entry+Requirements&pid=39>

I am applying to study at another Sixth Form or college

We would recommend that you complete your GCSE studies and then the Sixth Form subject resources provided. If there is a course that is not provided by Brooke Weston Academy we recommend that you speak to the provider to ensure that you have resources to prepare with.

I am applying for, or have been accepted onto, an apprenticeship

Depending on your predictions/mocks we would recommend that you complete your GCSE studies in English and mathematics to ensure you secure the grade 4/5, along with any relevant subjects related to the apprenticeship. It is also recommended that you speak to the provider to ensure that you have resources to prepare with.

Careers advice is an important part of the offer at Brooke Weston Academy. Our Careers adviser, Mrs Scott cscott@brookeweston.org, will be contacting students who have highlighted to us that they are not planning to study at Brooke Weston Academy to support them through choices and applications.

I would like to thank you for your patience and support throughout the current situation we find ourselves in. If you have any queries in regards to this please contact curriculumsupport@brookeweston.org

Yours sincerely



P Kirkbride
Principal