



30th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this finds you and your families safe and well. We still await further information from the government concerning exactly how A-level grades will be awarded. The latest government announcement can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> A shorter update of what we know so far is given below.

Why have the government cancelled exams?

The coronavirus outbreak is expected to continue having a significant impact on the education system, and the country, for months to come. Therefore, exams have been cancelled now to give pupils, parents, and teachers certainty, and enable schools and colleges to focus on supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Will students be sitting their AS exams or Units of their Cambridge Technical courses?

No. All exams have been cancelled in May and June.

What does this mean for my son/daughter who was due to sit an exam this year?

For the AS exams, calculated grades will be produced. The calculated grade will take into account teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment, so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect their predicted grades. The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible. It is likely Ofqual will include considering measures that reflect how much progress a student would have been likely to have made at the school they are attending. With the Cambridge Technical courses, all the coursework and exam preparation work are still very much essential. The cancellation of exams means that subjects will push all moderation and exams into year 13 rather than completing some of it in Year 12. Your son/daughter should continue to engage with the home learning work to ensure that they are up to date with all coursework tasks. For Financial Studies and Core Maths, this information has not yet been released, but all awarding bodies are working together to ensure students are not disadvantaged as a result.

What should my Son/ Daughter be learning at home?

We are committed to our aim that during this period of school closure we will provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students. It is imperative that we keep the school curriculum a part of our students' day to ensure that there is limited disruption to your child's learning, allowing them to carry on with their education with us as normal on return.

As a school we have put a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that a rich online curriculum can be delivered by our staff to our students for the duration of the school closure. All lessons and school resources will be made available and delivered to students via the software Microsoft Teams. Teachers and students have had training on the software.

How will subject teachers provide my son/daughter with a predicted grade for their UCAS/Apprenticeship application?

As you will be aware, students were going to sit mock exams later in term 4 which would have formed the basis of this prediction. It is our intention to push these mock examinations back to September. This will allow for plenty of time for students to make UCAS/Apprenticeship applications based on the grades that are predicted.

Again, this makes it extremely important that students are engaging with the home learning in order to ensure we can make the best possible predictions for them.



How can we access information about Universities/Apprenticeships while the current restrictions are in place?

Your son/daughter will have access to an online platform called Unifrog which contains lots of valuable information about different career pathways.

Many Universities offer virtual tours, which can be found through the UCAS website or on each University's website. This could be a useful way for students to continue to evaluate their options while the current restrictions remain in place. The deadline for your son/daughter to apply for University is not until January 2021.

We will also be sending all students links to Webinars from our partner Universities, offering guidance on applying through UCAS, personal statement writing and accessing student finance.

In order to ensure that our Year 12 students are not disadvantaged by the current restrictions, we ask for your support in ensuring that they continue to engage in the home learning work that is being set through Teams.

Safeguarding information

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Brooke Weston Academy. However, during such uncertain times and due to school closures, it is important that we ensure parents/carers know who to contact if they are concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). You can find their contact details on our school website www.brookeweston.org

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child out of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1). Alternatively, you can e-mail them on MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, you should contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning **999**.

What support is there for IT or Curriculum questions during this time?

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, subjects or work, please contact your teacher in the first instance via email or Teams. However, they may be unavailable, so in this instance please contact: CurriculumSupport@brookeweston.org

Note: Curriculum support will be unable to answer subject specific questions.

If you have issues with Teams or Office 365 please contact: ITStudentSupport@brookeweston.org

Note: IT support cannot resolve issues with hardware or Internet at home.

Finally, at this time of national crisis, we are asked to trust the science and to follow the advice of the government. We need to give our support to front line services, particularly the NHS. I want to thank all staff who are operating the school for key worker children to allow them to continue to do their jobs.

I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this year and hope your families stay safe and healthy throughout this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Pete Kirkbride
Principal