



Dear Parent / Student

A letter from Ofqual to students was circulated on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 regarding the awarding of **A level, GCSE, Extended Project Qualifications and Advanced Extension Awards (AEA) in maths** grades this summer. We wanted to provide you with this letter, along with information for the awarding of grades for these qualifications and for vocational qualifications for those of you graduating this summer.

### **Submitting your grades to the awarding bodies**

- We have been asked to generate a 'centre assessment grade' for each subject you study based on what we know about your work and achievement. We have also been asked to order the students by performance for each grade. This information will be used by the awarding bodies to standardise our judgements.
- The exam boards will be sending more detailed information on how and when to submit the grades, and we expect to receive this after Easter. Ofqual have announced that they will require grades to be submitted soon after 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### **Determining your 'centre assessment grade'**

- The centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade you would have achieved, if you had sat your exam in a subject and completed any non-exam assessment this summer. So that the final grades awarded are as fair as possible, exam boards will standardise the judgements across different centres once they have been submitted, using a statistical methodology developed in conjunction with Ofqual.
- We will not be setting any additional mock exams, homework or tasks for the process of determining your centre assessment grade and you will not be disadvantaged if you were unable to fully complete any work set after the college closed. We do however continue to be committed to teaching and learning and encourage that learners still fully engage in their online learning set by teaching staff, as this will help to ensure we have a wide range of current evidence on which to draw when submitting centre assessment grades.

- Based on the expectations set by Ofqual, we will be using evidence gained from records of your performance over the course of study at Loughborough College on the A level, GCSE or Extended Project programme to determine your centre assessment grade for each subject. This includes, for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE.
- If you have an agreed reasonable adjustment or access arrangements, the judgement will take account of likely achievement with the reasonable adjustment / access arrangements in place. Our judgement must reflect how you would have performed under ordinary circumstances (i.e. with the access arrangements in place). In addition, where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected your performance in mock assessments / exams, we are required to bear these in mind when making judgements. However, please note, you must have informed us about any illness or other personal circumstances at the time of the mock exam / assessment and will not consider any mitigating information submitted from now on.

**For A level subjects and the Extended Project Qualification this evidence will include:**

- Performance on any class or homework assessments, formative assessments and predictive grade exams taken over year 12 and 13 of your study at Loughborough College.
- A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics practice assessments. Exam boards will collect grades for the separate endorsements (practical assessments).
- Performance on any non – exam assessment (NEA) coursework, even if this is not complete. Ofqual recognise that many students achieve a higher grade on their NEA than in their exams, so we will not base our judgment solely on NEA alone. All NEA coursework needs to be retained by the college. This will be made available should you wish to sit any examinations that are offered later in the year. You must submit all outstanding NEA course work immediately (even if it is not complete) to your tutor via Turnitin. We will retain any NEA work should you decide that you want to enter a subsequent exam series.
- Extended project evidence: you still need to submit your extended project coursework to allow a grade to be generated for this. The deadline was Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Please still submit so that we can predict your grade even if it is not fully completed.
- For re sitting students, any information about your previous grades achieved or NEA marks, that would, under normal circumstances, have been carried over.

**For GCSE maths and English evidence will include:**

- Performance on any class or homework assessments, summative and formative assessments taken over the year of your study at Loughborough College.

- For English GCSE, if you who have already completed your speaking and listening endorsement, this will be identified on your certificate. A number of you may have carried over your previous qualification and this will also show as an endorsement.

### **Verifying your 'centre assessment grade'**

- As well as the awarding body standardisation, your grade will be also subject to a rigorous college approval process to ensure that grades have been awarded accurately and fairly.
- Our Head of Centre will confirm that the centre assessment grades and rank order of students are a true representation of your performance.

### **Releasing of results:**

- The College will not be allowed to share the centre assessment grades with you. The final results will be published in the normal way and as soon as the college receives the results, they will contact you. The Department for Education have announced that grades for A levels will be released on 13<sup>th</sup> August and grades for GCSE's on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.
- It is very important that you do not ask any staff member to send you your 'centre assessment grade'. This will be in breach of Ofqual guidelines and may jeopardise your final grade being ratified.
- The grade you are awarded for each subject will have equal status to the grades awarded in previous years and should be treated as such by universities, colleges and employers.

### **Appealing grades / sitting exams in the next series:**

- Ofqual are considering what arrangements to put in place to allow an effective appeal and they will be consulting on this. If you feel your grade from the summer does not reflect your ability you will have the opportunity to take your exam in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If you chose to do this both grades will stand.
- If you choose to take an exam in the autumn, you will need to discuss with your university whether to start your course as planned or delay your entry.

### **Continuing to study:**

- For year 13 A level students and those studying GCSE maths and / or English leaving us this academic year, we will not be setting any more assessed work for you to complete. For year 13 A level students we will be providing guidance to help you prepare for your next steps. Where you have not got a plan for this, we will be working with you to help with applying for further or higher-level study, employment or an apprenticeship.

- If you are continuing your study at Loughborough College next year it is important that you continue to study GCSE Maths and/or English. The College will be in touch with you after the Easter holidays to confirm a continuation of your delivery plan.

### **Vocational qualifications**

We are still waiting to hear about how we will report your achievement for vocational qualifications for those students completing this year and will let you know as soon as we hear. In the meantime, please continue to complete work set by your tutors.

Yours sincerely



**Heather Clarke**

**Assistant Principal, Learner Experience, Quality and Community Engagement**