

Dear Parent/Carer

Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) have very recently announced the process of grading this summer's GCSE and A-level examinations following the cancellation of exams. Millom School fully supports Ofqual's plan for the grading of A-levels, AS-levels and GCSEs. The school recognises this is a solution brought about in extraordinary circumstances and it is about making the best out of a difficult situation. Currently, there is no official process for vocational qualifications, for example BTECs and Cambridge Technicals. Therefore, at the moment, we are advising that students continue to work on any coursework elements of their qualification and send work electronically to their teacher for marking. We also suggest that Year 12 students studying the extended project qualification (EPQ) continue to send their work to Mr Nunn, where they are able to do so.

We are confident that Ofqual's plan is the fairest and most consistent way of grading these qualifications in these circumstances. Students at Millom School can be assured that their teachers, who know them well, will assess their work with the utmost diligence. The process for standardising results nationally will mean there is an added level to ensure the grades awarded are robust. Most importantly, it will allow our students to receive the recognition they deserve for all of their efforts and hard work over the period of time they were at Millom School. The grades that will be awarded will reflect their hard work and will allow them to progress to the next stage of their lives. It is important to stress that the 'working towards' grades, which can be seen on Go 4 Schools, are based on a collection of current and past assessment data but that the process of national standardisation may mean that these grades change.

For this reason, we are yet not publishing the final reports on Go 4 Schools for Years 11, 12 and 13. These reports will be available to view in your parent account once the predicted grades have been submitted to the exam board, which is estimated to be the end of May. You can still, however, view the 'working at' grades in Go, which should give students an estimation of their likely predicted grades. It is important to remember that these grades may change after the national standardisation process.

Please find attached a letter directed to the students from Ofqual, which explains the process of predicting grades and standardisation in more depth. We would appreciate it if you could share this with them and talk through any concerns they may have at this time. Extra guidance for parents and pupils can be found on the government website if you search for 'Ofqual guidance on exams 2020'.

Finally, the most important thing is that these grades allow our young people access to their chosen destination for future progression, whether this is sixth form, college, apprenticeship or employment. We urge them to continue to apply for places, if they haven't already secured offers. If they are holding offers, we suggest they check with the education or training provider, or employer to confirm the process for accepting their place. Inspira are available to discuss future plans. They can be contacted via their website or Facebook messenger. It is likely that the school careers adviser will make contact by phone also.

Please stay safe, look after yourselves and your family. If you have any questions or worries please do not hesitate to let us know via the school email address.

Yours sincerely

C Vance (Mrs) – Assistant Headteacher