



29 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Updated information for Year 13 Students and Parents

### Awarding of KS5 Qualifications

As you know on 3rd April the Government and Ofqual outlined the process by which grades for GCSE, A Level and EPQ qualifications would be awarded this year. Since then, Ofqual confirmed that the same principles will be followed for our Vocational Qualifications. The guidance was clear about what information schools need to provide and gave some advice on the ways in which schools might approach it but schools were to determine the exact processes by which they would do this.

Schools are required to provide Centre Assessment Grades for all students and a Rank Order of students for each grade for each qualification. The Ofqual guidance defined the Centre Assessment Grades in the following way: "These should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades schools and colleges believe their students would have been **most likely** to achieve if they had sat their exams, and should take into account the full range of available evidence."

Leaders in school have been working on our processes since 3rd April and last week Departments began the process (the likely deadline for information submission is 29th May). From working with Departments, I am confident that we will be able to arrive at the grade judgements that will best reflect the **most likely** outcomes that our students would have achieved, had exams gone ahead this summer.

As I have said previously, the guidance makes clear that schools should not share their grade judgments with students or parents before the official calculated results are released in the summer so please can I remind you that it is inappropriate for any student or parent to contact a teacher directly to express a view or indeed attempt to influence the grade the school may put forward in its judgement.

Once schools submit the Centre Assessed Grades and Rank Order the exam boards will apply a standardisation process that will produce a Calculated Grade for each student in each qualification. **This is the grade that Exam Boards will award students on 13<sup>th</sup> August.** The aim of the standardisation process is described by Ofqual as follows: "if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more severe or generous than others, exam boards will adjust the grades of some or all of those students upwards or downwards accordingly." Ofqual proposes that exam boards take into account "the prior attainment of students at each school (at cohort, not individual level), and the results of the school in recent years." It also proposes that trends in school performance are not taken into account.

Once results are issued by the Exam Boards Ofqual proposes that there will be limited grounds for appeal. It is proposing that there will be no right of appeal against a school's professional judgement on grades or rank order or

the standardisation process, rather the only appeals would be about incorrect data being used, data applied wrongly or inaccurate information going to the exam board. Instead Ofqual propose that students who feel they would have achieved better grades will have the opportunity to take exams in the Autumn. Both the Autumn grade and the Summer calculated grade will stand (if they are different then obviously the student will use the better of the two).

I know that while your children and you will still be anxious about the grades that they will receive in the summer but please can I again reassure you that staff at St Thomas More will do everything we can to ensure that all students are awarded the correct grades.

### **Destinations**

I know that several students have been in touch with Sixth Form staff for support with various questions and information about their destinations after the summer. If students have any questions or concerns please contact Sixth Form staff who will do everything they can to support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D Watson  
Headteacher