



Exams Summer 2020

Frequently asked questions

Will I be expected to sit a written test in order to be awarded my IGCSE or A Level grade?

The formal examinations that were scheduled by the examination boards have been cancelled so there will be no examination session this year. You may, however, be required to sit an examination written by the school to assess your understanding, skills and knowledge of what you have been taught over the last two years. We are still waiting on guidance from the examination boards. Teachers may ask you to sit tests to assess your knowledge in some areas of the curriculum.

If I have to sit an exam will it be in the school building?

We are obliged to follow the guidance of the central government and that of the Murcian local government. Whilst schools are closed to pupils you will NOT be required to sit an exam in school. If necessary we will create an online test for you to complete.

Will speaking and practical examinations take place?

No, all formal practical and speaking exams are cancelled although your teacher may still hold informal speaking tests with you online to assess your ability. The assessment of EPQ will continue however and Mrs Williams will provide you with more information shortly.

Do I still have to submit any coursework or controlled assessment? Do the same deadlines apply?

YES! Your coursework or controlled assessment is likely to be a very important part of the evidence that the exam boards will want to see. It is really important that you do the best you possibly can and listen to your teacher's advice in order to secure the highest possible grade in each piece of coursework. The same deadlines still apply and, if you miss them, you risk being awarded NO GRADE in your subject.

Are this year's A Level and GCSE results as valid as previous years? Will they be accepted worldwide?

YES! The boards will be providing you with a certificate with an actual grade as in every previous year. They will continue to be accepted by the same bodies who accepted them up until now.

Will my teachers' predictions be accepted as my final grade? Should I ask them to raise my grade to get a better result?

NO! On both counts! The examination boards will be *calculating* your final grades. They are yet to provide the criteria, but it will involve a lot more than just your teacher's prediction - if that is used at all. **Teachers WILL NOT enter discussions with you or your parents about your final prediction** if they are asked for one. We have to make an informed, professional decision with empirical evidence to support it. Please do not petition them to increase your grade under any circumstances.

What if I didn't do as well as I had hoped in my mock examinations?

Your mock is likely to only form one part of the information the exam board considers. Your work prior



to and since your mock will have been assessed by your teachers also. This is one of the reasons why it is very important to continue to work your hardest and show your teachers what you are capable of.

When will I find out the final grade the exam board has awarded me?

The UK authorities are yet to confirm but have indicated they aim to release calculated grades by the end of July 2020.

What if I do not agree with the final grade I am awarded?

If you do not agree with the final grade you are awarded there will be a process for you to sit an examination at the earliest, realistic opportunity. The details of this are yet to be confirmed by the UK government.

Will my A Level results still allow me to go to university?

Yes, your A Level results count as real examination results, even though you didn't sit the formal examination. UCAS have a section on their [website](#) with further information

Will I still need to prepare for and sit examinations for Selectividad subjects?

Yes, at this moment it is likely that the selectividad session will take place albeit at a later date. The Spanish authorities are currently meeting to make a decision on how and when this will happen.

Do I still need to pay for my examinations?

Yes, even though you are not sitting formal examinations, the boards will still require payment in order to process your coursework, create your calculated grade and produce certificates. Effectively, in all previous exams years, candidates have paid for their final grade certificate, not the individual examinations.

Do I have to go to virtual school if examinations have been cancelled?

Yes! It is even more important now that you focus on doing the best you can, showing your teachers what you are capable of and finishing off the course content. Both A Level and IGCSE examinations prepare you for the next stage in your education and you must make sure you have the underlying knowledge to move to Sixth Form or university. We will continue to hold lessons for all pupils in Year 11, 12 and 13 until the end of the school year and you will be expected to attend as part of our entrance requirements for Sixth Form

Will the school's entrance requirements for Sixth Form be relaxed?

No. The requirements to enter our Sixth Form will remain the same. If your calculated grade does not reflect what you believe is your potential then you **may** have the opportunity to sit an exam to prove your knowledge, understanding and skills in the subject in question. We cannot guarantee this for all subjects or in all situations. As is usual when making decisions on subject choices your teacher's professional judgement will also be taken into account and reserve the right to refuse entry onto any course or to impose a trial window if we feel it is necessary.