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Headmaster: David Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)

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Dear Parents,

I am pleased to announce that OFQUAL have now provided some detail of how grades will be awarded for courses that students are enrolled on. The school has been asked to provide the Exam boards with a grade for each student based on their work over the two years of their GCSE/A Level/BTEC course. The teacher will then be expected to rank all the students within the grade from most to least secure.

All the grades submitted by Battle Abbey School will then go through a process of standardisation. This will ensure that the grades we have submitted are realistic and in line with our previous public examination results – meaning that student grades are not over or under inflated.

There will be a system of appeal if students are unhappy with the grade they receive and there is also talk of Autumn examinations should students want to sit these at a later date. More information on this will be released in due course.

The window for submission will not start before the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 and will run for two weeks. Hence, I would like to reiterate how important it is students continue to work hard in order to enhance their chances of receiving the best possible grade. Even if their grade does not move up, the work submitted can influence the ranking within that grade. It should also be said that OFQUAL have been clear that large increases in student grades based on work after the 20<sup>th</sup> of March will be strongly discouraged. Thus, it would be unlikely that a student's grade will move more than one grade. Nevertheless, the higher a student's ranking the less likely it is the exam board will move the grade down during standardisation.

Rest assured the school is currently busy producing data, should it be needed during appeals, and I would also suggest students keep all their books and essays in a safe place should these be needed for the same purpose.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the following from the OFQUAL guidance: ***'Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence.'***

Given the information above I would request that you do not contact teachers about grades that are likely to be submitted. Please feel free to ask about general performance and do look at the tracking data you have been provided with over the past months to ascertain where your child is in terms of their grades.

I would like to thank you for your patience and support at this difficult time. I am pleased OFQUAL has come up with a fair system that will help students to get the grades that they deserve and the school will do everything in its power to ensure students can achieve the best grades possible.

You can find a letter to students from Ofqual at this address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>.

If you have any further queries at this time or in the coming weeks, please feel free to contact our examinations officer, Claire Licence, at [exams@battleabbeysschool.com](mailto:exams@battleabbeysschool.com).

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Austen-White  
Director of Studies