



26 March 2020

## **The importance of continuing to study at GCSE, AS and A2:**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A number of emails have been sent to us in the past 24 hours asking for clarity regarding the necessity of continued study of GCSE, AS and A2 courses given that the summer external examinations will not now take place. Please read the information which is relevant to your daughter/s below.

### **Y12**

The Department of Education and CCEA contacted all schools to inform us that they will not proceed with GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer and that all Non-Examination Assessment will cease immediately. This is also the case for other Examining Bodies. Grades will now be generated from predictive and historic evidence and data. Candidates who are unhappy with the grades that they have been awarded in the summer will have an opportunity to submit appeals. It has been suggested that in such cases these candidates may be required to sit an examination early in the autumn term.

**Any pupil who has not completed their course will be placing themselves at a disadvantage in such cases.**

Almost all AS courses assume that pupils have a solid foundation of prior knowledge in the subject area. The level of challenge and pace of content coverage in AS study is significantly greater than for GCSEs, so a pupil who has not completed the GCSE course will be placing themselves at a disadvantage from the beginning in the courses that they take up at AS level in the Autumn Term. Some universities also take GCSE and AS grades into consideration when making offers to applicants.

**Therefore, as we await further clarification, pupils in Year 12 should continue to work from home as directed by teachers.**

[https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/letter-minister-education-education-sector;](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/letter-minister-education-education-sector)  
<https://ceea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ceea-statement-cancellation-summer-examinations-2020>

### **Y13**

The Department of Education and CCEA contacted all schools to inform us that they will not proceed with GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer and that all Non-Examination Assessment will cease immediately. This is also the case for other Examining Bodies.

Grades will now be generated from predictive and historic evidence and data. Candidates who are unhappy with the grades that they have been awarded in the summer will have an opportunity to submit appeals. It has been suggested that in such cases these candidates may be required to sit an examination early in the autumn term.

**Any pupil who has not completed their course will be placing themselves at a disadvantage in such cases.**

A2 courses are a continuation of AS. The level of challenge and pace of content coverage in A2 study is greater than for AS, so a pupil who has not completed the AS course will be placing themselves at a disadvantage from the beginning as they move into A2 level study in the Autumn Term. Some universities also take GCSE and AS grades into consideration when making offers to applicants.

Therefore, as we await further clarification, **pupils in Year 13 should continue to work from home as directed by teachers.**

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/letter-minister-education-education-sector;>  
<https://ceea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ceea-statement-cancellation-summer-examinations-2020>

#### Y14

The Department of Education and CCEA contacted all schools to inform us that they will not proceed with GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer and that all Non-Examination Assessment will cease immediately. This is also the case for other Examining Bodies. Grades will now be generated from predictive and historic evidence and data.

Candidates who are unhappy with the grades that they have been awarded in the summer will have an opportunity to submit appeals. It has been suggested that in such cases these candidates may be required to sit an examination early in the Autumn Term.

**Any pupil who has not completed their course will be placing themselves at a disadvantage in such cases.**

Therefore, as we await further clarification, **pupils in Year 14 should continue to work from home as directed by teachers.**

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/letter-minister-education-education-sector;>  
<https://ceea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ceea-statement-cancellation-summer-examinations-2020>



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