

# GCSE CANCELLATION

## Parents and Pupil Update

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### OVERVIEW:

From Friday 20 March, all educational settings were partially closed to everyone except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is expected to continue having a significant impact on the education system, and the country, for months to come. Therefore exams have been cancelled now to give pupils, parents, and teachers' certainty, and enable schools and colleges to focus on supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers. We appreciate this is a difficult time for all pupils and parents. We have tried to outline the key information available to us at the moment in a bit to alleviate your concerns. As and when we are given updates we will endeavour to inform you first and foremost. Please be patient with us at this difficult time, we are all working hard behind the scenes to support everyone the best way we can.

### KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

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### WEBSITES

[www.shepwellschool.co.uk](http://www.shepwellschool.co.uk)

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

[www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)

Following the decision to partially close schools and cancel this year's Examinations for May/June 2020; the government has announced more details of how grades will be awarded this summer. Please see the main points below. Should this change at any point or further information is released we will update you urgently.

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

I hope this new information will answer some of your questions – but I appreciate that you may still have some. I promise we're working hard with regulators and exam boards to get all the answers, so please bear with us.

Working together, we'll ensure that the hard work by your undergone by your child throughout the academic year will all be worthwhile – and that your child will have the grades they need to progress to the next stage of the lives.

*Best Wishes,*

*All at The Shepwell School*