



24 March 2020

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

## **Re: Year 13 Update**

Thank you for your patience and continued positivity in support of the College during these challenging times. We have been extremely proud of the way Year 13 have conducted themselves since the announcement cancelling the summer examination season and how students embraced the opportunity to celebrate their time in College on Friday afternoon. We hope to arrange an official leaving event for the year group as soon as this is possible.

On Friday, 20 March 2020 (evening), the government issued the guidelines and process for awarding grades in light of the cancellation of examinations this summer.

### **All schools will submit a calculated grade for each subject, for each student.**

The exams regulator (Ofqual) will develop and set out a process that will provide students with a calculated grade which reflects their performance as fairly as possible. The exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade they believe students would have received if examinations had gone ahead. Teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock examinations and non-examination assessment such as class work and coursework and will act upon clear guidance provided by Ofqual on how to do this fairly and robustly.

Unfortunately, in order to keep the process fair and consistent, we are not able to take into account any additional material or assessments which have been completed since College closure except for on-going coursework tasks completed electronically from home and where exam board rules allow this to happen; in these cases, teachers will advise you of any relevant deadlines.

We know our students well, so please do not feel the need to email us in order to make the case for a particular grade.

Please rest assured that the College has a robust system for moderating the data we will submit to the exam boards to ensure that all students are treated fairly.

### **Ofqual will then calculate a final grade for each subject, for each student, against other factors and it is anticipated that these grades will be released by the end of July 2020.**

The 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 subject which will be a best assessment of the work produced throughout the course.

### **The government is currently suggesting an opportunity to challenge outcomes if students wish and/or be given the opportunity to sit examinations at a later date (at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again or in summer 2021).**

We will keep all students and parents posted as soon as we know more from the government on any future developments.

If you wish to read the full announcement by the government it can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The priority for all of us now is to remain calm and reassure all students that we will prioritise our systems in College to submit their predicted grades. We will ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment

**Opportunity • Endeavour • Excellence • Achievement at Ivybridge**

and training, starting university or college courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

University representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education. We will update you as soon as we receive further information from UCAS; please look out for further emails from the Sixth Form team. In addition, careers advice and guidance will be available after Easter via CSW.

For all of our Year 13 students we suggest the following next steps:

- Take some time to recoup.
- Reflect on learning to date, considering the extent to which you wish to be prepared for possible examinations next year.
- Be an extra pair of hands around the house and do your best to look after family members during such challenging times.
- Continue to be inquisitive and mindful of your future plans by using this valuable time to research topics, jobs, careers and interesting articles rather than hours on irrelevant blogging or social media sites. We recommend Unifrog, MOOCS and the Future Learn website as platforms for this.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and the kind messages that so many staff from across the College have been receiving from both students and parents/carers. This is a turbulent period for us all and therefore, we encourage students, parents, carers and our staff to keep in touch via a newly established email support group - [Year13support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Year13support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk).

Please keep safe and continue to follow the guidance from the government. Whilst at home, remember to keep in touch with friends and family and keep in mind that we at the College are always here to support you. Please continue to check your College email, as we will be in touch regularly with updates, advice and support.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**College Principal**

Heather Lilley  
**Associate Deputy Principal**