



**LINCOLN**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you with an update of the latest information the Academy has with regards to the awarding of examination grades for current Yr11 and Yr13 students. As you are aware the situation we are all facing is unprecedented and the government has taken the decision to cancel all examinations for the 2019/20 examination series, including SAT examinations at KS2 and GCSE and A level examinations at KS4 and KS5.

The government has stated that its priority now is to ensure that affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

To ensure that this is done fairly the government has announced the following process that will be followed by all school and academies across the country. I have reproduced this below from the letter the Academy received this week from the Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson;

*Ofqual 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 the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The 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 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. 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 student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.*

*Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.*

*The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.*

**Headteacher:** Mr R Trow

**The Priory Lincoln Academy**, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 0EP

**Tel:** 01522 882800 **Email:** [generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk) [www.priorycity.co.uk](http://www.priorycity.co.uk)

The Priory Lincoln Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 135564



*We recognise that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams. If they do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.*

*There is a very wide range of different vocational and technical qualifications as well as other academic qualifications for which students were expecting to sit exams this summer. These are offered by a large number of awarding organisations, and have differing assessment approaches – in many cases students will already have completed modules or non-exam assessment which could provide evidence to award a grade. We are encouraging these organisations to show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged. Ofqual is working urgently with the sector to explore options and we will work with them to provide more details shortly.*

Once the grades have been calculated, it may be that you do not agree with the grade awarded. It is worth reiterating that the only proposed method of appeal is to sit examinations in the subject some time towards the end of this year or in the 2021 summer session. This means that students must keep consolidating their knowledge and work with their teachers to complete work that has been set or they will put themselves at a disadvantage.

As an Academy and a Federation of Academies, we stand ready to work with the DFE and Ofqual to provide the information that they need to calculate these grades. Please be assured that the robust tracking systems that we use will ensure that when asked for an input, the grades given will reflect the best professional judgment of your sons/daughters performance based on this robust evidence. We are currently waiting for more details of how these grades will be calculated. As soon as I have any more information I write to you again detailing how the process will work and the Academy's response to it.

Kind regards

Mr C Hill  
Assistant Head