



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

2021 Examinations

06.01.2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students

On Monday evening, the Prime Minister announced that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way. We will get details in the coming days of what will be put in place instead, but it would seem reasonable to assume that students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance using class work, homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence. It is possible that there will be some additional elements, or that some areas will be examined, and we will of course be in contact as soon as we have any confirmed detail.

I am well aware of the shock and disappointment you will be feeling following this news. We had consistently been told by the government that exams would happen this year, and everyone involved planned on that basis. It is, however important to reflect on the following points:

Your hard work will still be recognised

None of the effort you have shown so far will go to waste. We have been so impressed by the resilience, courage and dedication to learning shown by your cohorts. Whatever system is decided upon by the Department for Education and government will ensure that the work you have put in to your studies thus far will be fully reflected in your final grade. Furthermore, skills you've developed in studying and revision will serve you very well in your future studies.

The new system will be fair

Whatever system is put in place, it will ensure that grades are awarded using objective evidence. Any grades provided by the school will be carefully moderated to ensure they are consistent both within BDA and across the country. We would imagine there will be a similar appeals mechanism and follow up exam series as has been in place this autumn.

Your eventual results will not be any different from any other year

In the long run, it will not matter that your results have come about a slightly different way. You will still be able to progress to sixth form, college, universities and apprenticeships in the same way. The value of your grades is not changing, and we are confident as a school that you will be able to go on to the destinations of your choosing and to make the world a better place.

It is hugely sad to see the school empty when it should be full of staff and students, life and learning. However, we are resolutely not closed, and have hugely important work to do.

We will support you and your families as we did in the first lockdown. You will still be receiving careers, sixth form and UCAS guidance, still be in regular contact with your form tutor and still staying up to date with current affairs.

Most importantly, we need to keep learning, and you will have a full timetable of online lessons. Your teachers had planned for exams to take place but have had contingency plans ready in case this happened. We will guide and support you throughout the time you are learning from home and beyond. Your lessons start on Wednesday 6th January at 8.30 am. Make sure you turn up, you aim high and keep learning.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bhatia
Principal

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