

King Egbert School

Advice for parents concerning **exams** for 2019-2020

From Friday 20th March, schools across the country are closed to all students except the children of critical workers or vulnerable children. The following FAQs concern examinations and qualifications at KS4 and KS5.

Examination arrangements, coursework and cancellation of exams

What is happening to exams this year?

All exams scheduled for this summer (May-June 2020) have been cancelled.

What about coursework or NEA?

Exam boards are working on this at the moment. If assignments or coursework pieces have been set already, you should complete them and meet the deadlines set. In some subjects, coursework will continue to be set remotely and you should complete this as you are set it. Performance in all coursework and assignments is factored into predicted grades, so if you have been set work, try your hardest to complete it and do your best.

If your coursework cannot be completed without being in school (e.g. use of a lab) then you cannot be expected to finish it. Your teacher is the best person to check with if you are unsure.

The exam boards will be giving us further advice and when we get it, we will update students and parents/carers.

How do I submit coursework I am doing now?

Send it to your teacher via email. If that is not possible, take a photo of it and email that to your teacher, then post the original work to school. Your teacher will be able to collect it from school once the restrictions on movement and social distancing are relaxed.

What about practical exams (e.g. art)?

These cannot now take place. You should not worry about this.

Grades

What will happen about grades?

Grades will be generated by taking into account various pieces of information that the school already has. These may include predicted grades. Predicted grades are based on a variety of previous assessments and judgements (e.g. mock exams, coursework, class work...).

The exam boards will also use other data (for example, the school's past performance, students' previous exam data [KS2 SATs]...) to generate their grades.

All data that is required for this process is already in place and the school will be working with the exam boards to support them in this process.

Parents and students should not contact the school or individual teachers to enquire about predicted grades or to request a change to their grade.

All data is already in place and no changes will be made as a result of such requests.

Will I just be given my predicted grade?

Not necessarily. Read the answer above. Predicted grades are one piece of data the exam boards will use to generate your grade.

When will I find out what grade I have got?

We assume this will be on the published results days in August. This is 13th August 2020 for A Levels and 20th August for GCSEs.

Can I appeal against my grade?

The government has said you have the right to appeal if you believe the school has not followed the 'correct process'. This probably means you will not be able to appeal if you don't agree with the grade, only if you believe the school has not taken the relevant information into account. The government advice says:

If a student does 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, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

Resits and further exams

Have I got another chance if I am disappointed?

Please see above. You should be able to sit your exams in the autumn term if you wish to, or in the following summer as an alternative. This would most likely be if you wish to try and improve your grade. There is no definite information about how this will work or exactly when it will be.

College and university places

I am waiting to be interviewed for a place at college. What should I do?

The college should contact you directly to arrange an interview once they have adjusted to the new way of working.

I have been offered a place already to study at sixth form or college. Is that still definite?

If you have been given an offer (either conditional or unconditional), nothing should change. If it is conditional, then you have to wait for your results as normal to see if you have got the grades you need.

What if I don't get my grades? Can I resit and try again?

If you don't agree with the grades you are awarded, or your grades are lower than you need to meet the offer requirements of the course, you can resit in the autumn term. There is no definite date for this yet and it is unclear if resitting an exam in the autumn would allow you to join courses late, or you would have to wait until the following September. The government advice says:

Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after the beginning of the academic year.

While it cannot be guaranteed in every circumstance, Universities UK has assured us that the majority of universities will show the utmost flexibility to ensure that such students who take this option are able to begin their course with a delayed start time.

General advice

I have just seen a story about something to do with exams in the newspaper/on social media. Should I believe it?

Always treat news via social media with extreme caution. If it is reported in the news, it is definitely worth going to the government's own website (gov.uk) and looking at the news updates on there. If something is official, there should be a press release or guidance online about it. Don't just rumours are true.

For further advice about any of the above, please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>