

To Functional Skills Learners & Parents,

In these challenging times we realise that there will be a great deal of anxiety around the functional skills English and/or maths exams for both learners and parents/carers. I wanted to email you to try my best to update you on the current situation and provide reassurance that Suffolk New College will do everything possible to support our learners through this difficult time.

There is a link to the latest information around exam cancellations at the bottom of this email (and also a link to some FAQs) but, to summarise a few salient points:

- ALL exams will definitely be cancelled this academic year
- Learners will be granted a grade based on a number of factors (the link provides some indication of what these may be but it has not yet been confirmed how the overall grade will be calculated)
- OfQual will work with the awarding bodies to finalise a fair and consistent system for calculating the overall grade
- The overall grade will be treated as the final result and will be recognised by employers, colleges and universities
- SNC have relaxed their academic course entry requirements for the 20/21 academic year - more information can be found on the website

The functional skills qualifications break down as follows:

English:

Reading: this is an exam which learners will have taken before the Xmas break

Speaking and listening: This is an in class assessment that many of the learners will have completed already

Writing: This is an exam which was scheduled to be taken, for the majority of learners, during this week (week beginning 23rd March)

Maths:

This is 1 exam which is split into a calculator and non-calculator section. The majority of learners were booked to take this exam during the week before the Easter break (week beginning the 30th of March).

We will await the guidance from OfQual and the examining board on how to calculate the grades for learners. Once this is provided, we will act as swiftly as possible to get together any information that may be required of us.

In the meantime, it is important for students to continue their engagement with English and maths and complete the online work which is being assigned by the tutors. Should learners have any subject specific questions, then they should email their tutor directly. If they are unsure of the email address of their tutor then they can contact either:

Head of maths - Mark Pluck

email: [markpluck@suffolk.ac.uk](mailto:markpluck@suffolk.ac.uk)

Head of English - Louisa Hubbard

email: [louisahubbard@suffolk.ac.uk](mailto:louisahubbard@suffolk.ac.uk)

Please find the links to information for the government below and, should you have any further questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks,

Chris Gilbert

Director of English & Maths

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

FAQs: <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>