

To GCSE Learners & Parents,

In these challenging times we realise that there will be a great deal of anxiety around the GCSE 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 GCSE 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 (AQA in our case) 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
- If a learner is unhappy with their final grade, they will have the opportunity to sit a paper based exam as early as possible into the next academic year (more details will follow)
- SNC have relaxed their academic course entry requirements for the 20/21 academic year - more information can be found on the website

Our priorities at SNC over the next week will be to complete the marking and correlation of the results of the recently completed mock assessments. We will also be getting together various pieces of information in anticipation of the announcement from Ofqual so that we can move as swiftly and accurately as possible to provide anything that is needed.

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
Head of English - Louisa Hubbard

email: markpluck@suffolk.ac.uk
email: 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>