

17 April 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has written to Ofqual with his views on how Vocational and Technical Qualifications should be graded this summer for year 11 students following the cancellation of examinations.

The full text of his letter can be found [here](#).

At Westfield many students in year 11 study vocational and practical courses. These are valued qualifications which offer our students clear pathways on to further study or into employment.

These subjects are:

BTEC Engineering

BTEC Sport

BTEC Performing Arts (Theatre and Dance)

I would particularly draw your attention to this paragraph of Gavin Williamson's letter which states:

'it is Government policy that, as far as possible, such qualifications should be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels with learners receiving a calculated result. Calculated results could be based in part on teacher, trainer or tutor judgements of their ability, where appropriate, in combination with a range of other evidence. A number of students will already have completed assessments in some modules and, where that evidence usually counts towards a result, it could be taken into account.'

In BTEC subjects students will certainly have been very close to finalising their work in internally assessed units and may have taken examinations that would actually have counted towards the final grade. Teachers will therefore have access to a wide range of evidence, in most cases greater than in traditional GCSE subjects.

Teachers will use this evidence to create a centre assessment grade. These will be moderated up or down by examination boards to ensure fair grading across schools.

It is important that I reiterate that we have been directed that we must not share our centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances.

Yours faithfully



Mr M. Reid
Deputy Headteacher



Stiby Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3EP

Telephone: 01935 423747 Fax: 01935 411340 Email: office@westfieldacademy.co.uk