



# Portadown College

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Principal: Gillian R Gibb, BA(Hons), PGCE, MSc, PQH(NI)

24 March 2020

Dear Year 12 Parent/Carer

Following the recent Ministerial announcement confirming the cancellation of all external examinations this summer, I write to inform you of current guidance to schools and colleges in respect of grades for the Summer Series 2020.

As already communicated with parents/carers, the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir MLA, has advised schools (correspondence dated 19 March) that the Department of Education's priority is to ensure students receive fair and equitable results that reflect their hard work and enable judgements to be made about progression to study or employment or other avenues. The Minister states that CCEA will therefore continue to work with other awarding organisations to develop a robust process for awarding grades. In his letter to schools, Mr Weir wrote: the plan is to use a combination of prior achievements, internal teacher-assessed tracking information, predicted grades and analysis and modelling of existing data trends to provide the necessary assurance about the robustness, accuracy and fairness of the grades being awarded.

Currently, we await clarity as to:

- the precise nature of "internal teacher-assessed tracking information" to be used;
- the process for students appealing their grades if they do not believe the right process has been followed;
- the option for students to sit examinations at a later date if they are dissatisfied with the grade awarded in the Summer 2020 Series.

Within the current context and pending definitive clarification from the Department of Education and awarding organisations, the College advises Year 12 students to ensure they have, to the best of their ability, completed GCSE courses using remote learning provision as appropriate.

We would impress upon students also that the content of the GCSE courses provides an essential foundation for the next level of study in each subject. Equally, we are conscious that some students may believe they have decided upon their post-16 pathways/subject choices at this stage. However, it is important to bear in mind that on receipt of examination results, students may decide on a different route to that which they had planned and therefore it would be wise to have completed the GCSE specification for each subject. We would therefore request your support in reiterating this message to your son/daughter.

Thank you for your invaluable support and co-operation at this time.

Yours sincerely

Gillian R Gibb  
Principal