

# fortismere

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Contact: rrobson@fortismere.org.uk

Date: 27 April 2020

Dear Private Candidate

As you are aware, the Ofqual have made significant changes to the examination process for the 2020 summer series of GCSE and A Level exams. The latest official government update for students, parents and teachers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

This is understandably a very difficult time for all young people sitting exams and we would like to update you on how these arrangements will be applied to you as a private candidate. As stated in the government guidance (3rd April 2020):

*Heads of centre have been asked to provide centre assessment grades for private candidates registered to take exams with their centre and include them in the rank order where they are confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of the student's achievement to make an objective judgement.*

We have sought further advice from Ofqual and the exam boards to clarify what might be deemed 'sufficient evidence' in the case of students like yourself who no longer study these subjects or are home taught. Ofqual clarified that historic assessment data and work from 2018/19 was not deemed sufficient for teachers to make an objective judgement of a student's achievement for 2020 because it cannot show evidence of progress over the past 12 months. It was also confirmed to us that contributions from private tutors should not be sought as their judgements cannot be objectively verified.

In these unprecedented circumstances we must protect the integrity of the grading process and adhere to Ofqual's instructions. Therefore, in accordance with the current government guidelines, we are unable to include private candidates in our grading and ranking process for the summer 2020 series and you will not receive a grade in August 2020.

We appreciate this information will be upsetting for you and may present potential challenges for you regarding your next steps. However, candidates in years 11 and 12 will be able to register for the Autumn sitting of GCSE exams. Dates and arrangements for this are likely to be provided following a decision on the lockdown lift. The government is currently in consultation with universities concerning private candidates and universities have been asked to be flexible regarding places for offer holders in your position.

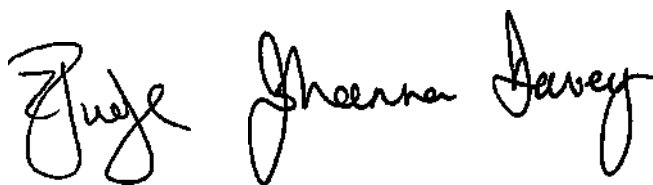
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Ofqual launched a consultation on the new examination arrangements on the 15th April and are seeking views on a range of issues including how the government's arrangements will impact private candidates. You can read the consultation document and contribute your views here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-seeks-views-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

The consultation document also states that "Exam boards will continue to work with us (Ofqual) to explore all options for how such a process [for private candidates] could work and will provide an update on this no later than 30th April".

If the arrangements and guidance change following the consultation, we will be in touch.

Yours faithfully



Zoe Judge and Jo Davey  
**Co-Headteachers**