



17th April 2020

MIGS/ADM/T3/PRC/SS/PS/2020-0213

Dear Parents and Guardians,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – IGCSE UPDATES (YEAR 11)

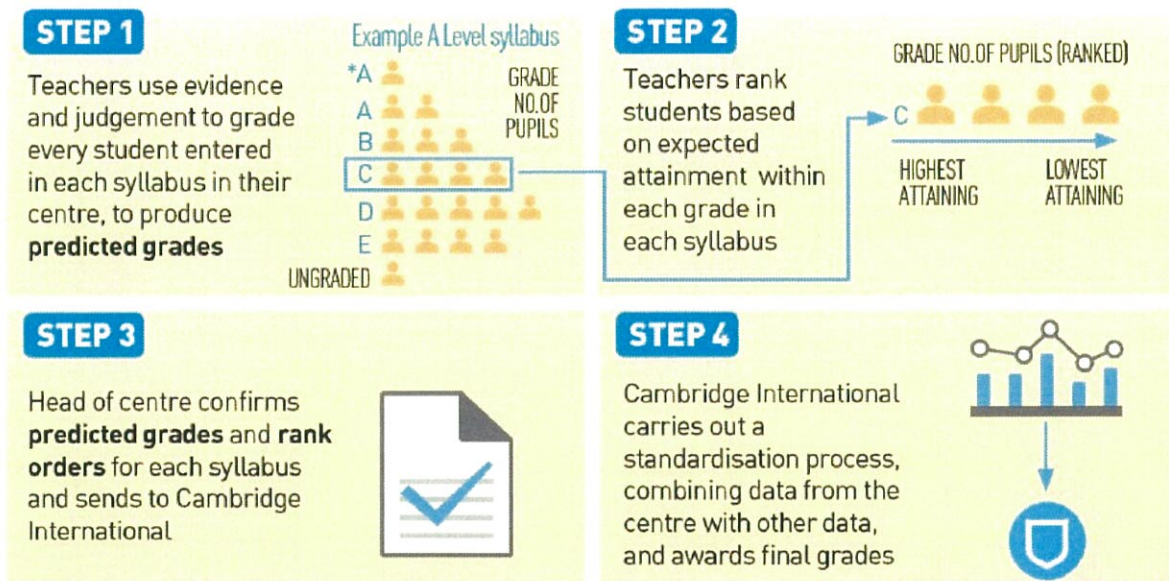
I trust this continues to find everyone safe and well.

As we are aware CAIE made the announcement featured in my email on the 26th of March, that the physical examinations for the June 2020 series for IGCSE **will not run** and that students will still receive a grade and certificate based on their predicted grades. These results will be released in the usual timeframe of early August 2020.

Following some detailed conversations, there is a four-step process we are following here at the school. I am working closely with our subject teachers, Heads of Department and or Examinations Officer to establish the most accurate grade based on robust evidence, teacher judgements and Cambridge Grade Descriptors.

AWARDING GRADES FOR THE JUNE 2020 SERIES

A summary guide for teachers and students



Source: CAIE

The examination board has made it very clear to all schools that this differs from a target or forecast grade where we would submit a 'best performance possible' grade. The predicted grade together with rank orders is part of this new process. Predicted grades will stem from a school's judgement about each candidate, and combine all the evidence a school wants to consider, including any forecast grades we have previously submitted to the Cambridge examination board.

The predicted grade should be the grade that, in the professional opinion of the teacher, the candidate would have been most likely to achieve if the June 2020 exam series had taken place.

As my correspondence on the **1st of April 2020** also indicated: -

The types of evidence that might be available could include but will not be limited to:

- *mock exams*
- *coursework (complete or incomplete)*
- *assignments*

They also advise us that:-

You do not need to set students fresh work to gather evidence – for example, you do not need to set new mock papers, set assignments or ask them to complete unfinished coursework.

Finally, all schools are advised not to share these predicted grades with students or parents as the step four standardisation process may lead grades to either:-

- *Move to receive a higher grade*
- *Remain at the same grade; or*
- *Move to receive a lower grade*

We are heavily involved in this process at the moment, comparing our historical data of student past performances from the start of the IGCSE course, termly assessments, teacher assignments and mock examinations.

Please note that our mock examinations completed in January 2020 were used as a performance indicator and we would expect student performance to potentially rise if the students have focused and followed the raising achievement plans teachers are utilising. I am pleased to report that many students have indeed done this and raised their focus since the mock examinations.

We are due to submit all predicted grades to CAIE by the end of May 2020.

Looking towards the future

Cambridge AS & A Level programmes

I invite our current Year 11 students and parents to join me and our staff for various conferences featured below throughout Term 3. Even though our students would normally be on **study leave** during the period and would not be attending classes, I would like to offer opportunities to utilise this time and discuss the various courses on offer and potential study options beyond MIGS. Most will be group-based, where an individual conference is offered an online booking system will be available via the parent portal.

Please find an indicative timeline of activities for Year 11 for Term 3. More accurate event details will be shared in due course,

DATE	ACTIVITY	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?	LEAD PERSONNEL AND CONFERENCE TITLE
Wednesday 22 nd April	Year 11 parent group Zoom conference	Parents and students	Principal's update, followed an introduction to MIGS Sixth Form and A level programme
Week beginning 27 th April	Individual Zoom conferences - A level focus	Parents and students	School Principal to outline the assessment system and options. An online booking option will be available soon
Monday 4 th May Friday 22 nd May	Various conferences	Students	Principal and Heads of department Topics to include:- What makes a successful sixth form student? A-Levels or IB? Academic writing skills Careers Guidance Sixth Form Tutorials
Week beginning the 1 st June	Year 11 group conferences	Parents and Students	Principal Which subjects should I consider?
to 18 th June	Year 11 Group conference	Students	Heads of Department A level subjects guides

We have chosen the Cambridge Programme of A levels as a relevant, renowned and recognised curriculum, enabling our student results to be extremely desirable to universities and future employers. For this proven program, thousands of learners worldwide gain places at leading universities every year with Cambridge International AS & A Levels. Syllabuses develop a deep understanding of subjects and independent thinking skills.

The curriculum

Cambridge International AS & A Level develops learners' knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- In-depth subject content
- Independent thinking
- Applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- Handling and evaluating different types of information source
- Thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments
- Making judgements, recommendations and decisions
- Presenting reasoned explanations, understanding implications and communicating them logically and clearly
- Working and communicating in English.

I look forward to various conferences with you and again I trust you all remain safe in these somewhat uncertain times.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PAUL BIRCH
 Principal