

# CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**Principal:**

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Education Authority - North-Eastern Region

16 April 2020

**Dear Parent / Guardian of Year 13 students**

I trust that this letter finds you well, and that you are in good health. The entire school community is foremost in my thoughts at this time.

**Information about Year 13 summer CCEA modules**

This afternoon CCEA published a guidance document for students, parents and teachers with detailed information on the awarding of GCSE, AS and A Level grades this summer. It can be located at the following link: [https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/Guidance%20document%20for%20Student%2C%20Parents%20and%20Teachers\\_4.pdf](https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/Guidance%20document%20for%20Student%2C%20Parents%20and%20Teachers_4.pdf).

A message to students and families from the Chief Executive of CCEA, Mr Justin Edwards, can be accessed here: [https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/A%20message%20to%20students\\_0.pdf](https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/A%20message%20to%20students_0.pdf).

I wish to share below a summary of that information with you, and what it will most likely mean for our Year 13 students at Carrickfergus Grammar School.

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Year 13 students will receive a nominal grade this summer for their AS CCEA modules. The model for the awarding of CCEA AS grades will be determined based on a range of factors, including the use of centre assessed grades (grades sent to the examination board by school) and rank ordering (a process whereby school ranks students in a subject in potential order within grade boundaries). Further information on centre assessed grades and rank ordering can be found in the above link. Schools are not permitted to disclose centre assessed grades or rank

**FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS**  
**[www.carrickfergusgrammar.com](http://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com)**  
**[info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)**

ordering to students, in order to protect the integrity of this unique process. Students will be made aware of their AS grades no later than the planned date for the publication of AS results which is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

However, these AS grades will not contribute towards A Level results in 2021. In the summer of 2021, students will have two options for their A Level award.

**Option 1:**

Students may sit CCEA AS module(s) alongside their CCEA A2 modules at the end of Year 14 in May / June 2021.

**Option 2:**

Students can complete their CCEA Year 14 (terminal) A2 modules only at the end of Year 14 in May / June 2021. In this circumstance, they will receive a predicted mark for their AS modules based on a statistical prediction procedure. This prediction procedure for AS modules will be based on their performance in the A2 modules. This means, invariably, that student performance in the A2 modules will most likely need to be strong in order to secure a good overall A Level grade.

CCEA states that *'if (a student) chooses to sit any AS units alongside the A2 units, they will be awarded the highest grade at A Level from either route.'* Carrickfergus Grammar School presumes that this may mean the following, subject to clarification from CCEA:

- If a child sits an AS module or modules alongside A2 modules at the end of Year 14 (Option 1), but the statistical analysis indicates that they would have received a higher grade had they undertaken Option 2 above, they will receive the higher grade;
- If a child sits an AS module or modules alongside A2 modules at the end of Year 14 (Option 1), and the statistical analysis identifies that this option has secured them a higher grade than had they undertaken Option 2, they will receive the higher grade from Option 1.

School awaits clarification on what this means in relation to AS controlled assessment modules.

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The options and implications outlined above mean that important decisions are going to have to be made regarding ultimate examination entries for the summer of 2021. Staff at Carrickfergus Grammar School will now take some time to reflect and consult with each other on this afternoon's guidance from CCEA, and I would hope to be in a position to write to you again next week. Carrickfergus Grammar School emphasises its total commitment to working productively in partnership with students and parents in order to ensure the right possible option and pathway for our children.

As a result of the information published by CCEA this afternoon, I would like to emphasise the following:

- It remains absolutely vital that, after Easter, our Year 13 students continue to engage and to work assiduously through the material and resources assigned to them via the Google classrooms. Students will be expected to demonstrate engagement in the classrooms and online lessons, to upload work as necessary and as advised by their teachers, to meet deadlines and to communicate with their teachers via the Stream Room or e-mail as applicable if they need support or assistance. School will monitor the engagement of students carefully and will continue to liaise with parents when necessary. We have greatly appreciated the tremendous support that parents have given us as we embraced this new online platform;
- Carrickfergus Grammar School will take the unique step of trying to arrange an additional parent-teacher consultation in late August 2020 (provided that lockdown and social distancing measures have been relaxed) to allow you and your child an opportunity to discuss with subject teachers the potential Year 14 pathway he / she may follow.

### **Communication**

As we approach the start of the summer term, may I remind you of various communication channels the school has in place to support and assist you and your child as far as possible.

Information and updates regarding individual subjects will be posted in the respective Google Classrooms.

Parents can contact the school as usual via the school phone line on 028 93 363615 during the day or the additional number of 07395930976. The general school e-mail account is [info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk) . Any general Google Classroom issues can be addressed by forwarding the query to [kcrooks461@c2kni.net](mailto:kcrooks461@c2kni.net) . Safeguarding issues will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. These, and any other pastoral issues, may be addressed by contacting [lkane502@c2kni.net](mailto:lkane502@c2kni.net) .

The school community is also asked to check the school website on a regular basis for further updates.

### **In Summary:**

Tel: 028 93 363615 // 07395930976

Email:

General: [info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)

Google Classroom / IT: [kcrooks461@c2kni.net](mailto:kcrooks461@c2kni.net)

Pastoral / Safeguarding: [lkane502@c2kni.net](mailto:lkane502@c2kni.net)

Website: [www.carrickfergusgrammar.com](http://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com)

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## **Conclusion**

Finally, may I thank you as parents for your tremendous support. I appreciate that for many students, the opportunity not to sit AS modules this summer following much hard work and endeavour throughout the year may be disappointing and frustrating. I am confident, however, that the exam board will do everything possible to ensure that final A Level grades awarded next year are fair, and totally reflective of the hard work and commitment manifested by our fine students. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, concerns or issues.

**Stay Safe**

**J. A. Maxwell**  
**Principal**

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