



KING EDWARD VI  
SHELDON HEATH ACADEMY

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Monday 23 March 2020

Dear Student/Families

As you are aware, all GCSE and GCE examinations have been cancelled; a short extract of the guidance issued by the DfE on Friday evening is at the reverse of this page and the full guidance can be accessed via our website ([www.keshacademy.com](http://www.keshacademy.com)).

To clarify a couple of points in this guidance:

- All examinations have been cancelled – this is all GCSE, GCE, BTEC examinations.
- Ofqual will work with the DfE and schools to decide how to best award students their qualifications; they will use a range of data to reach a grade.
- The precise methodology has not been identified yet.

The Academy is committed to working with Ofqual and following any guidance that will be issued by Ofqual or the DfE to ensure that all students are awarded their qualification grades in a fair way. Furthermore, the Academy will endeavour to communicate with you relevant information as it becomes available – please check our website regularly.

For any queries, please contact [info@keshacademy.com](mailto:info@keshacademy.com) Please note that we may not be able to answer some questions until further guidance becomes available.

Best wishes,

Miss K Tzoganakou  
Vice Principal



KING EDWARD VI  
ACADEMY TRUST  
BIRMINGHAM

Principal: Mr J. Allen

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## **Coronavirus (COVID-19): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020**

Extract of guidance published 20 March 2020 for the full guidance visit [www.keshacademy.com](http://www.keshacademy.com)

2. What will happen to those who have already done some non-exam assessment?

The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.

4. Will all students get their predicted grade?

No, we know that simply using predicted grades would not be fair to all students. The calculated grade will take into account teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment, so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect their predicted grades.

5. Will schools be using mock exam results as a barometer for results – and is this fair on students as they did not know at the time these would be used as their final mark?

Mock exam results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account in this process, alongside other factors. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.

9. Will universities/colleges/sixth forms accept these calculated grades?

The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.

University representatives have already confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

10. What if I am unhappy with my grade?

We will work closely with Ofqual and awarding organisations to ensure candidates are awarded a fair grade that recognises the work they have put in. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

16. Will parents be required to educate their children while they are off school?

We are completely committed to ensuring that every child receives the best education possible and will be working with the BBC and others to provide resources for children to access while at home.

18. What will young people with university offers do?

The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted.

We welcome the constructive approach taken by the main university representative body, Universities UK, who have said that universities will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to university.

20. If I already have an unconditional offer, does that remain?

Yes, an unconditional offer means you have already met the entry requirements, so the place is yours if you want it.

23. How will colleges, sixth-forms, universities cope with the fact that these students will have missed out on some of their education?

These are extraordinary circumstances. We are working with schools, sixth forms, colleges and universities to ensure that we do everything we can to best help students prepare for and progress to the next stage of their education.