



Dear Student,

I hope you are well and not missing your school, friends, and teachers too much. I have missed having you around and seeing you each day to have a chat or even just to say hello! and my colleagues have also missed you and teaching you face to face. It is frustrating that the closure of our school has disrupted your education in the way that it has, and I appreciate that the continuity of your learning in Year 13 has been somewhat disrupted, especially if you were due to sit summer examinations. Therefore, I have attached a Question and Answer table to the back of this letter to help you understand how your performance in subject courses will now be assessed and continued to completion in year 14.

I know being away from school and working from home will not have been easy for you, so I intend to make your transition into Year 14 to continue your education as smooth as possible considering the challenging times the Breda community will face with implementing measures to protect you and your families from COVID 19. The Education Minister, Peter Weir, confirmed on the 2nd June 2020 that the Department of Education for Northern Ireland has started its **Restart Programme** which will put in place the detailed arrangements which will enable a safe reopening of schools. The Education Minister said;

"Subject to medical guidance and safety it would be my aim to see a phased reopening of schools, beginning with a limited provision for key cohort years in late August, followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September. This will not be a return to school as it was prior to COVID 19, but rather a new normal reflective of social distancing and a medically safe regime. For all pupils it will involve a schedule with a mixture of school attendance and remote learning at home."

Breda Academy will adhere with the set guidelines and I will inform you and your parents/carers how these will be implemented in our school setting. I will send you a further update by letter in due course about what we are doing and you will also receive a Welcome Back Pack outlining your attendance at school schedule, 'blended' learning guidance (in school and at home) and possible changes to our normal school routine including school bus timetables.

Please continue with your set work for each subject on Google Classrooms until at least the end of June as this will prevent you from falling behind and having to catch-up on missed learning. I wish you an enjoyable and safe summer break and I very much look forward to seeing you again most likely in late August or early September and please do not worry about your return to school as I know my staff team will work tirelessly to support you and take care of you, so you make lots of progress in your next year of learning.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Perry - Acting Principal





YEAR 13 SUMMER EXAMS 2020 Q & A

I was due to sit an AS exam unit paper in May/June 2020. Will I still receive an AS grade this August?	Year 13 AS exams are not taking place this Summer. Year 13 students who were due to sit an AS exam will receive a nominal AS grade on Thursday 13th August 2020 . CCEA and OCR Year 13 students will receive a nominal AS result. AS level does not exist in BTEC and OCN, therefore those students will not receive an AS result.
Will my nominal AS grade count towards my final A Level grade to be awarded next year in August 2021?	The nominal AS grade awarded in August 2020 will <u>not</u> count towards the final A-Level grade awarded in August 2021. This Summer's nominal AS grade means that students who do not want to continue with their studies can at least leave Sixth Form with official AS results.
How will Exam Boards (e.g. CCEA, Pearson, OCN) be able to award AS results?	The school has submitted Centre Assessment Grades to Exam Boards. Subject teachers used a range of internal evidence to allocate these Centre Assessment Grades to students. The Centre Assessment Grades are a considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved in each qualification course this year.
Can I ask for my Centre Assessment Grades now?	Guidance from the Education Minister is very clear in stating that Centre Assessment Grades must <u>not</u> be shared with students or their families by the school. These grades are confidential and have now been sent to Exam Boards for standardisation to take place.
What is Exam Board standardisation?	Exam Boards will use a statistical model to standardise grades in each subject. This means that the Centre Assessment Grades which have been sent by the school can be changed by the Exam Boards when they are deciding on your official results.
What if I am unhappy with an AS result awarded to me by an Exam Board?	There will <u>not</u> be any opportunity to sit AS exams until the summer of 2021. In the summer of 2021, current Year 13 students will have 2 options: A. Sit the Year 14 A2 exams <u>only</u> (and coursework where relevant) and their overall A-Level results will be calculated using statistical predictions based on their Year 14 A2 performance. OR B. Students may decide to sit Year 13 AS exams <u>and</u> their Year 14 A2 exams Subject teachers will discuss these options and their implications with students and families at a future date.
Is there an option to repeat Year 13?	There is no option available to repeat Year 13 as <u>all</u> Year 13 students may continue into Year 14 when the new academic year begins in September 2020.
Will my qualification courses continue into Year 14?	Yes, Year 13 qualification courses will continue into Year 14, this includes CCEA, OCR, BTEC and OCN subjects.