



# Ark Globe Academy

7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Update on GCSE, BTEC, OCR National and A Level Exams

I hope you and your family are managing well as we continue to adapt to ever-changing circumstances.

Our first day online yesterday was a real success and it was wonderful to connect with students through Learning Family, live lessons and the Community Classroom. As always, our teachers are working hard to make sure the education being provided is of a high quality and that students are attending and engaging. However, your role in making this a success is very much known and appreciated so THANK YOU.

Yesterday, the Education Secretary made a further announcement around GCSE and A Level exams. There are three important points to know around this:

1. GCSE and A Levels Exams will not go ahead.
2. Teachers will be awarding GCSE and A Level grades and from next week, the government will be working with schools to decide what will be used to determine these grades.
3. BTEC and OCR National Exams were not mentioned and are going ahead as planned. The decision has been left to schools and we are working in consultation with parents and students around these.

I know that the announcement will cause huge disappointment to you and your child. In many ways, exams are a rite of passage that allow students to independently demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of subjects that they have dedicated hours of learning to. It is important to remember that this learning is not wasted or lost. Many will continue to use their learning in their next stage of education and in adult life.

I am sorry that we do not have any definite answers to give you around what will be used to determine the grades awarded to students by teachers. This has yet to be decided (see point 2 above). However, it is likely to include a combination of classwork, coursework, formative assessment and mock exam performance.

What remains important to focus on is that which is within our control. This means students need to **continue to attend online lessons, keep learning and complete the work** set by teachers. **The work that your child does between now and the allocation of grades will contribute to teacher assessment.** It also means that we need to begin to focus even more on students' next steps and ensuring they are best prepared for this. Whatever their next steps are, hard work and a determined attitude will be essential so let's work hard and be determined to deal with whatever is put in front of us.

**Principal:** Mr Matt Jones

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Preparing our students for university  
and to be leaders in their community

On a practical level, ensuring your child is reading and aware of the world around them is never a wasted effort so encourage them to do additional work here too, especially in the current circumstances, where we are witnessing events at home and abroad that we have never seen before.

As always, please do get in touch with me directly on [u.sookun@arkglobe.org](mailto:u.sookun@arkglobe.org) should you have any questions or queries, although be advised that I may not have the answers for you at this moment.

Wishing you and your family all the best.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'U Sookun', written in a cursive style.

**Ms U Sookun**  
**Associate Principal**