

HaileyburyTurnford

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23rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family members are safe and well. I know it has been hard to process all the information sent out by the government, but I would just like to clarify a few key points for now.

Following the initial guidance by government that all examinations are cancelled this summer, it was unclear how grades for GCSE, AS Levels, A Levels and vocational qualification would be calculated, though some new information has now been provided and here is a link to the full information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Below are some key extracts from the document:

Allocating grades:

'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 (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) 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.'

'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.'

'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.'

Appeals:

'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.'

Exams:

'We recognise that some students may feel disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams. 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.'

Vocational qualifications:

'There is a very wide range of different vocational and technical qualifications as well as other academic qualifications for which students were expecting to sit exams this summer. These are offered by a large number of awarding organisations, and have differing assessment approaches – in many cases students will already have



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completed modules or non-exam assessment which could provide evidence to award a grade. We are encouraging these organisations to show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged. Ofqual is working urgently with the sector to explore options and we will work with them to provide more details shortly.'

I am sure that further information will be issued in the next few weeks, but for now this is our guidance for how students should proceed.

- Students should continue and complete all coursework they have started to the best of their ability and within the parameters of the equipment they have available.
- Students should continue to complete work set by their teachers (this is all available via Class Charts and students without Internet access have been given copies of the relevant materials) and email completed work to them for checking and feedback.
- Currently we are advising that you continue with all your subjects, until we have greater clarification from the government about expectations for awarding grades.

All teachers will be setting work on a daily basis for the lessons on that day, so please do let me know if work is not being set by emailing justk@haileyburyturnford.com. Work should be submitted by email on the student's school email address and teachers will respond to this within 48 hours.

We will keep you informed of any changes or further clarification from the government once we know anything. I can, again, assure all students who have applied to the Sixth Form that they will get a place and, once we have clarification, we will contact students to let them know how their subject choices can be finalised. As you are all aware, these are extraordinary times and advice changes regularly so rest assured we will maintain contact as soon as these changes are shared with us.

If you have any questions or concerns during this period of uncertainty, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Ms K Just
Vice Principal



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