

HaileyburyTurnford

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23rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the initial announcement 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.

Late on Friday evening (20th March), some further guidance was published which has started to answer some of the questions that students and parents may have. Below is a summary of this guidance

- 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.
- For vocational qualifications, 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.
- Mock exam results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account in this process, alongside other factors. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.
- The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.
- Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after the beginning of the academic year. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.
- If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis.
- 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.

More detail can be found at <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>

The government has said its aim is to provide these calculated grades before the end of July, and there will be an option to sit an exam later if you do not feel your grades reflect your performance. The government has said this will happen at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

UCAS are also publishing information on their website to keep both student and schools informed. The latest update can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates>

Below is a message from the Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan:

"We want to assure students that grades will be equally as valid as those in previous years, and their hard work will be rewarded and fairly recognised. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted."

Further advice from UCAS is for students not to rush into making any decisions, and to carefully consider any unconditional offers. Applicants should feel no pressure to accept new unconditional offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each exam they would have taken.



Haileybury Turnford, Mill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 0JU 01992 308333 www.haileyburyturnford.com
Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

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In light of this updated information, we believe it is important for students to be completing work set by their teachers unless the school sends an update to the contrary. Teachers will continue to set work for Year 13 students using the school email system.

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 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. Please ensure all students log onto their emails to obtain the work. If work has not been set for a lesson, please contact me at shivalkarn@haileyburyturnford.com and I will endeavour to follow it up.

If teachers have asked for work to be submitted, this should be via email. All communication with teachers should be from students' school email addresses. If there are problems logging on to emails, please let me know.

It is important that students are able to demonstrate the level they are working at to support the process for awarding grades when this detail is provided to schools in due course.

During this time of uncertainty, if you have any questions then please contact me and I will try to answer them as best as I can, although definitive answers may not always be available.

Yours faithfully



Mrs N Shivalkar

Assistant Principal & Head of Sixth Form



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