



Hertswood Academy

Aim High • Achieve Excellence

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Headteacher Peter Gillett BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MBA

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support over the past few days, we know this has been a difficult time with very little information available.

We are pleased to say that this afternoon we received further guidance from the Department for Education on how exam results will be awarded. At this stage there is still some uncertainty regarding the fine details, however we have been told the following:

- The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer.
- There will be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to.
- Ofqual are still to develop the process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data
- The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

The full article can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

We will ensure that students' efforts are fairly represented in order to secure the right outcome for every individual. Our staff are experienced in the prediction process as this is part of our regular reporting each year. I must stress that these grades are not simply a representation of the mock exams, as we use the highest grade boundaries possible to ensure that any national changes in grade boundaries do not affect outcomes. We are still uncertain regarding BTEC courses and will be in touch as soon as we have information in relation to this. Teachers will be in touch in relation to completing any outstanding work for this.

(continued overleaf)



We would strongly recommend that students continue to use their time wisely and ensure they are confident in the entirety of all of their courses, in the event that they do wish to sit the formal assessment in the autumn. We also recommend that students keep their brains active and next week we will be putting a number of A level and BTEC bridging activities for students who wish to remain in the sixth form next year. As well as this we will upload suggested tasks on to the Y11 Google Classroom. We hope that students will show us the resilience and intelligence we know they have by completing any outstanding work to the best of their ability.

We will continue to support students, ensure that they are still able to achieve their potential and be recognised for the qualities we have seen in them. We have always been extremely proud of this year group and know that they will be successful despite the current situation. The school community is still present even though our connections are now via the internet and we look forward to supporting students in the forthcoming weeks. If you have any questions please email a member of the Y11 team directly. We will put together a frequently asked questions package and send this out over the course of the next week.

Yours sincerely,

Wanda Gill

Assistant Headteacher