



Hertswood Academy

Aim High • Achieve Excellence

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

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Year 13 students for their calm approach at a time of uncertainty. We are pleased to say that this afternoon we received further guidance from the DFE 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>

In the meantime, it is vital that you continue to work on any external assessments that you have access to, such as coursework and portfolios. We would also strongly recommend that you ensure you are confident on the entirety of all your courses, in the event that you do wish to sit the formal assessment in the autumn. We also strongly recommend that you keep your brains active and next week we will be putting a number of suggested tasks on to the Futures Google Classrooms and will be setting up different programmes of study for you to get involved in. I strongly recommend that you show us the resilience and intelligence we know you have by completing any outstanding work to the best of your ability and use this time to build on your skillset.

(continued overleaf)



We will continue to support you, ensure that you are still able to achieve your potential and be recognised for the qualities we have seen in you. We have always been extremely proud of our Sixth Form community and the resilience and excellent attitude of our students. That community is still present even though our connections are now via the internet and we look forward to supporting you in your final weeks at Hertswood Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Carey McFerran

Assistant Headteacher