

Dear Year 11/13 Parents

Re: How GCSEs, AS and A Level grades will be awarded in summer 2020

Firstly and most importantly, I hope that you and your family are in good health during these challenging times. I also apologise for emailing during the holidays but felt that you would be keen for an update regarding how exam grades will be awarded this summer.

As you know, the Secretary of State for Education announced in March that the summer 2020 GCSE, AS and A level exam series would be cancelled in order to help fight the spread of the Coronavirus and that students due to sit exams would be awarded the grade they would have been most likely to achieve had exams gone ahead. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), which oversees the exam boards, has now released details about the process which will be followed to award grades for GCSEs, AS and A Levels this summer. Ofqual have published two useful documents which explain this process to parents and students. These can be accessed by clicking on the links below.

[Ofqual guide for parents](#)

[letter to students from Ofqual](#)

Please be reassured that Ofqual, the exam boards and Hardenhuish School are all committed to ensuring that the process of awarding grades this summer is fair and that students will not be disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions. I would like to emphasise a number of key points:

- Teachers know their students well and will use a range of information to make sure the school assessed grade that is submitted to the exam board in each subject best reflects the most likely grade a student would have achieved if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned.
- This will include performance in mock exams, but students should not worry if they were not happy with their mock exam results because teachers will also use classwork, homework, end of unit tests and any non-exam assessment or coursework that students might have done.
- It should also be noted that grades submitted to the exam boards will not necessarily be the same as the expected grades on a student's latest progress report or their UCAS predicted grades because further information about a student's progress is likely to have been collected since these grades were published.
- Schools are not required to set additional mock exams or homework to provide evidence to support the school assessed grade and students won't be disadvantaged if they were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

It is important to also stress from Ofqual's documents that schools have been instructed that the grades submitted to the exam boards are confidential. Therefore, please don't ask your child's teachers or anyone else at school to tell you the grades they will send to the exam boards or where your child has been placed in the rank order of students as they will not be allowed to share this information with you. I would be grateful if you could direct any questions you may have about the process of awarding grades to Dr Bassford (rpb@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk).

We will be in touch early in Term 5 with details about the transition learning we think will best support your child's next steps, as well as further information about what the school will do to help celebrate your child's time at Hardenhuish. In the meantime, I hope you have a restful Easter holiday.

Take care and kind regards,

Lisa Percy
Headteacher