

17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Re: GCSE Results Day Information – Thursday 20 August 2020

We have carefully planned the GCSE results day this summer so that we comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, but at the same time give our students the opportunity to come into school to collect their results and have access to the face to face support we would like to offer. Key staff for Year 11 and members of the Leadership Team are very much looking forward to greeting the students when they are on site.

Results day

We would like to invite Year 11 students to collect their results in person from the Peter Thompson Hall (PTH) on Thursday 20 August at the time given in the table below. A staggered collection with three stages is necessary to keep pupil numbers below the maximum we are permitted on site at any one time. Note that if you are in a tutor group in the second or third stage and you don't want to wait, you have the option of requesting your results by e-mail so that they arrive earlier in the morning (see below). Sadly, we will have to ask our students to leave the site promptly after collecting their results and refrain from congregating in large groups. Pupils will be asked to clear the site during the 15 minute windows between each stage. To reduce the number of people in school, we would be grateful if parents could stay off site or remain in their cars.

Tutor Groups	Collection Time
AJB, NML, RWK	8.45am – 9.15am
EXH, JXK, SEF	9.30am – 10.00am
PRF, CEH, HXR	10.15am – 10:45am

Any results that are not collected in person by the end of the time periods above will be posted home at the end of the day by first class mail.

If a student is not able to collect their results in person

Students may request for their results to be e-mailed home on the morning of 20 August. Results will be sent to the pupil's school e-mail address between 8:45-9:15 am. To do so, the student (not parent) must contact Mrs Vaughan (Exams Officer) before midday on 18 August by e-mailing hardenhuishexams@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk.

If a student would like another person to collect results on their behalf, the student must provide written and signed permission. Please also e-mail Mrs Vaughan in advance of results day so we are aware. The person collecting the results must bring the letter of permission and proof of their identify. We are not able to provide results over the telephone.

Advice and guidance for the Sixth Form and other pathways

Mr Heffernan (Assistant Head and Director of the Sixth Form) and Mrs Brenton (Careers and Transition Manager) will be available in E10 to meet with students who have Sixth Form entry queries or would like guidance over alternative post-16 pathways. Mr Wiggall (Deputy Director of the Sixth Form) and Mrs Todd (Sixth Form Pastoral Manager) will be available in E9 to meet with students who have queries about studying specific subjects in the Sixth Form. Access to E9 and E10 will be from the external steps leading up from the picnic area. Students may also e-mail MMH@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk or VJB@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk for advice and guidance, although the Sixth Form Team would prefer to meet with you on results day if possible.

Health and safety in E Centre

A one-way system will be in operation in E Centre with students entering through the foyer area, collecting their results from one of six desks inside the PTH and then departing from the exit next to E7. Please use the alcohol gel to sanitise your hands as you enter the building.

Textbooks and other resources

We would be very grateful if students could return any textbooks or other resources they have borrowed when they come into school on results day. These should be handed to a member of staff in the PTH.

Year Books

The printers have confirmed that the updated version of the Year Book will be ready for students to collect on results day. Students who received the first version with the grey cover should bring it with them on results day to exchange for the updated version which will have a different coloured cover. Thank you for your patience in waiting for the Year Book.

Centre Assessment Grades

As you well know, the summer exams were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, schools were asked to submit a centre assessment grade (CAG) and a rank order of students within each grade to the exam board for all students who were entered to sit exams. The CAG is the most likely grade a student would have achieved in a subject in the summer based on a range of evidence measuring their performance in assessments throughout the course. Please be reassured that we know our students well and a very robust and rigorous process was followed in school to derive the CAGs in accordance with guidelines from the Department for Education, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and advice from the exam boards. The school governors met to formally approve the process before teachers started to derive CAGs. It is important to stress that while each student's teachers helped to produce the CAGs, a number of other staff, including Curriculum Leaders and the Leadership Team, were also involved in the internal moderation of CAGs. This is why the grades are called *centre* rather than *teacher* assessment grades.

Having received a school's CAGs, the exam boards will then standardise (moderate) the grades using a statistical model developed with Ofqual. This step is necessary to make sure that standards across different schools are consistent and in line with the progress that students normally make in a particular subject at any given school. This means that the final calculated grade awarded to a student may be different to the CAG submitted by a school to the exam board.

CAGs are confidential until results day, after which students (not parents) will have the right to request their CAG from the school. We strongly recommend that students only request their CAGs if they feel there is an issue with the final grade awarded, rather than just out of curiosity. Details about the process for requesting CAGs will be posted on the school website closer to results day. It is essential that students follow this process rather than contacting their teachers directly to ask for their CAGs. Please note that rank order information will not be disclosed to students because of the potential of inadvertently revealing information about other students.

Appeals

Due to the pandemic, the appeals process will operate differently this year. Information about the grounds and process for appeal will be posted in the exams section of the school's website closer to results day, once further details are confirmed by the exam boards.

Autumn Exam Series

Ofqual have recently announced that it will be possible to sit exams in all GCSEs, AS and A levels in the autumn if students are not content with the grade they are awarded in the summer. GCSE exams will take place from 2-23 November. Students will receive an autumn exam entry form in their results envelope. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 16 September for all GCSEs, except English and maths which has a deadline of 1 October. Please note that grades awarded from the autumn exam series will be based solely on written exam papers with no non-exam assessment or coursework components; the only exception being art and design. Exam boards have confirmed that the higher grade from the summer and autumn series will stand.

We strongly recommend that students who are considering sitting exams in the autumn discuss the situation with their teachers before submitting an exam entry. As the school has already paid for all exam entry fees for the summer, we will expect students to pay the entry fees for any exams they sit in the autumn. Students in receipt of free school meals may ask the school for support in paying these fees if they choose to make any entries.

We very much looking forward to seeing you on results day in August and send our best wishes until then.

Yours sincerely

Robin Bassford
Deputy Headteacher

Liz Vaughan
Exams Officer