

Dear Year 11 student / parents / carers

Last week I wrote to you to confirm that this year's summer exam series, including A levels, GCSEs and other qualifications, will not now take place.

I was hoping to write to you today with more details of how the Government and Ofqual are planning to award grades. Unfortunately we are still waiting for detailed information, which I will share with you as soon as it is released.

The outline plan remains the same. Candidates **will** get the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage in their education, training or employment, including starting university, sixth form or apprenticeships in the autumn.

We understand that the system being designed will ensure that all GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade **which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.**

Ofqual is developing and setting out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student in each subject which reflects their performance as fairly as possible.

The exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this grade, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams, but also non-exam assessment. Schools will get clear guidance on how to do this fairly.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a final calculated grade for each student.

The aim is to provide these final calculated grades to students before the end of July.

These grades will be treated in exactly the same way as GCSE, BTEC and A level grades provided in other years. Employers, sixth

forms and universities will be expected to accept them in the normal way. Universities, in particular, have been asked to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

**Your teachers are preparing to respond to the final guidance from exam boards. You MUST help them by continuing to complete the work set on TEAMS and E-Praise for you. Your latest, best work is required to contribute to a final judgement on awarding your grade.**

There will be an appeal process if students feel that the correct process to award their final calculated grade in a subject was not followed.

In addition, there will be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year, or in the summer of 2021 for students who wish to. We do not have any further details of this at the moment.

I know that you will have been hoping for more certainty on how grades will be awarded. I know also that it is difficult to remain motivated in isolation and with such uncertainty. Rest assured that we have not forgotten you and that every member of staff at Hanley Castle remains committed to continuing to support you as best we can. Please contact us if you need help, advice or support:

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I would like to end this letter by thanking the vast majority of you who have worked so hard at home this week. I have had the most

wonderful feedback from your teachers who have appreciated very much the excellent work that you have completed.

On behalf of myself, the Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 teams, and all of the staff at Hanley Castle, our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Cooke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lindsey Cooke