



Hartsdown
Academy

Dear students and parents/guardians,

The Department for Education has published further guidance about public examinations for students in Year 11. The full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

In summary:

Key points relating to your GCSE results (following the government's announcement)

- The GCSE exams this May-June have been cancelled.
- The government is aiming for grades to still be awarded to you for all the qualifications you have been taking.
- They aim to:
 - provide these grades to you by the end of July
 - ensure that the grades reflect fairly the work you have put into your subjects

How will they produce the grades?

- They will ask your teachers to make a judgement about the grade they believe you would have got if you had sat the exams.
- This judgement will take into account your mock/PPE exam results as well as any non-examined assessment you have completed.
- They will then combine the judgements made by your teachers with other data which is available on students (e.g. Key Stage 2 SATs results where these are available).
- These two sets of information will then be used to calculate your final grade in each subject.

What happens if I am not happy with the grade I am awarded?

- You will be able to appeal if you believe the grade awarded is too low.
- You will also be able sit an exam 'at the earliest opportunity' in each subject if you are still unhappy with the grade (the timing of this will depend on when the virus outbreak is contained and things return to 'normal').
- You will also be able to sit your exams in summer 2021.

Things to note:

- We are unsure from the government's document how many exams you will need to take in each subject if you decide to sit them 'at the earliest opportunity' or in summer 2021.

What you should do now:

- Complete any coursework that is outstanding – this will help your teacher with grading your work.
- Continue to complete work set online as this will prepare you should you opt to sit GCSE exams in the exam windows offered next academic year, but also to prepare you for your next steps in your education.
- Contact Mrs Rigden if you have any questions or if you want any specific work or topics to be covered.

- Send any completed work to your class teachers so they can mark it and give any relevant feedback.
- Work packs are available from the school if you are unable to work online – please again contact Mrs Rigden if you need any specific printed work.

It is important that you keep all your mock exam papers, exercise books and internal assessments/tests as these may be needed by your teachers to support their judgement.

I am sure these proposals will raise many questions and we will keep you informed of all developments as soon as we receive further information.

Look after yourselves and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Tate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew Tate
Headteacher