



Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE and A-Level exam results 2020

The Department for Education and the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, have today published further guidance on arrangements for exams which have been cancelled to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has said:

Cancelling exams is something no Education Secretary would ever want to do, however these are extraordinary times and this measure is a vital but unprecedented step in the country's efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Government's priority is to ensure that all students affected by the cancellation of exams can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including starting sixth form, university or college, starting an apprenticeship or going into employment.

This means ensuring that GCSE and A-Level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work they have put in.

There are three stages to ensuring this can happen.

Stage one:

Exam boards will ask teachers to provide evidence and data (including performance on pre-public exams and non-exam assessment). The exam boards will then combine this with other relevant data, including prior attainment, in order to produce a calculated grade for each student. This will be a best assessment of the work the student has put in. More information on this calculated grade will be provided from the government as soon as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July 2020.

Stage two:

If a student feels disappointed that they have been unable to sit their exams, or feels that their calculated grade does not adequately reflect their performance, then they will have an opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again.

For this reason, it is very important that your child keeps all of their work (including any coursework) and revision materials until they have received their calculated grade. They may wish to take this exam in the future. Staff have also been instructed to keep all coursework and non-exam assessments.



Hellesdon High School & Sixth Form Centre

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Stage three:

All GCSE and A-Level students will also have the opportunity to sit their exams in summer 2021.

For those on vocational, technical or BTEC courses, the Department for Education is working urgently with the exam boards for these qualifications and more details will be provided shortly.

We understand that you will have lots of questions as a result of this announcement, and we will update you further as the Department for Education finalise the details of the arrangements. In the meantime, if you have a question, please contact Mrs Webb, Assistant Principal for Progress and Achievement for Year 11 and Mr Taylor, Director of Sixth Form for Year 13.

Yours sincerely,

M Earl and T Rolfe
Principals