



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

14 May 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I am writing at what is an important but again, unprecedented time for our Year 11 cohort after what has now been over a year of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. It is understandably both an exciting and anxious time, as students work hard towards guaranteeing their Key Stage 4 outcomes, in the most untraditional of ways, and look forward to the next steps as they transition out of Key Stage 4. This letter serves to inform about the process to determine grades and signpost key dates and milestones in the coming weeks.

## Key dates and the remainder of Year 11

The following section signposts key dates for the remainder of this term and details what provision is in place for Year 11 as they transit to their next stage. A summary calendar is provided along with this letter.

Year 11 Key Dates

**Friday 28 May** – Final day of normal timetable and conclusion of the “Opportunities to Improve” assessments. Start of the half-term break.

**Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 June** – **Teacher Assessed Grading INSET DAYS** – no school unless invited in to complete missed assessments

**Wednesday 9 – Friday 18 June** – **Online Teams Provision** – transition and bridging activities, guidance and careers work set on TEAMS

**Friday 18 June** – School submission of Teacher Assessed Grades to awarding bodies

**Monday 21 June** – **Year 11 Graduation Assembly** – 1415 Main Hall – A celebration of the last 5 years

**Wednesday 23 June** – **6<sup>th</sup> Form Induction Assembly**

**Wednesday 23 June – Wednesday 7 July** – **6<sup>th</sup> Form Induction taster sessions** – students attend a double period taster session in the subjects they wish to study in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Summer bridging work issued.

## Teacher Assessed Grades

When the government announced the second full national lockdown in January it also cancelled the Summer examination series as we have detailed to you before. At the end of January it published a consultation on the proposed system for determining grades for students completing both Key Stage 4 and 5 courses this year. The findings of this were

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published at the end of February and there was then a period of interpretation of the guidance by schools, moderated by the context in which they have found themselves over the course of the pandemic to come up with a system to determine grades. This meant schools had to decide on what evidence would be required and how it should be judged, in order to formulate a grade to reflect ***the standard a student is working at the time of data entry*** (Jun 2021). This holistic judgement should be based on a range of evidence and reflect only the aspects of the course that have been taught sufficiently well given the disruption caused by the pandemic, should cover as much of the course as possible and should include material that was still to be taught up until the deadline of 18 June 2021.

To this end, we have designed a system which reflects work and assessments completed up to the time of the end of lockdown as well as allowing for “opportunity to improve” assessments that have been conducted on pre-published schedules and timetables with students in lessons during this half term. **Students should remain focused, working hard and trying their best** in the remaining time of this half term as this can still greatly influence their final grade. The end of this half-term will see the culmination of all the data we have to generate this grade and then teachers will finalise marking, moderating and standardising of grades to ensure fairness and consistency across each examination cohort taking into account the relevant data available for each subject and student. As a school, we have been working within and across faculties and across other Camden Schools to ensure fairness and robustness in the system adopted as part of the required quality assurance processes.

Further details of Hampstead School’s designed policy for the Teacher Assessed Grading process is published on our website (and has been submitted to the relevant authority for quality assurance purposes) along with some more summary information of the nature of the task schools have been charged with from The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

Centre Policy

<https://www.hampsteadschool.org.uk/site/data/files/exam%20results/Hampstead%20School%20Centre%20Policy%20-%20Summer%202021%201.pdf>

JCQ guidance for parents and Students.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-guide-to-awarding-summer-2021>

Over the first two weeks of June teachers will be finalising the grades we will be submitting to the awarding bodies for the deadline of 18 June 2021. The Head of Centre, Mr Sadler, will make a declaration on submission at that time. Students, parents and carers will not be issued the grades we submit before the official results days, as instructed by JCQ and awarding bodies, as external quality assurance is also required post the submission date. In fact, undue pressure to request the grades or any advance release of them could be judged as malpractice by the examining boards.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Dr Hadley  
Acting Deputy Head