



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

26 February 2021

Dear students, parents and carers

Covid-19 and the awarding of grades in summer 2021

I hope this letter finds you and those close to you well.

On 15 January, Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) published a joint consultation seeking views on how grades should be awarded given that the usual examination series was announced to be cancelled for this year due to disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Yesterday, the government published the results of that consultation for GCSE, AS and A levels and also for vocational/ technical courses.

It was decided that grades should be based on teachers' assessments of the standard at which students are performing, and that the grade should indicate the student's demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills. It was also decided that teachers should assess students only on the areas of content they have taught, as requested by the Secretary of State.

Obviously, there is much information that has to be digested and made sense of from the consultation and we will now work towards formulating the details of exactly how your teachers will use information and assessments already done, and can still do, to determine the standard you are working at. We will give more information on how we will conduct the process of determining teacher assessed grades in due course.

We recognise this is a very anxious time for students and parents/ carers too. However, may I take this opportunity to assure you that we shall do so in a fair and robust way, that reflects the context we have all been working in, ensures that all students best interests are paramount and that no one is disadvantaged in showing the standard at which they are working by the time the grades are submitted in June. We shall also ensure that students realise that they can still work towards and improve on where they currently are working at and will have further opportunity during May to illustrate the standard at which they are capable of achieving by the time grades are submitted.

Head: Matthew Sadler BA (Hons), NPQH
Hampstead School, Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT

T: 020 7794 8133 E: enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk www.hampsteadschool.org.uk



There are now also revised dates for results days:

- **10 August for AS and A level**
- **12 August for GCSE**

With regard to appeals there is again much detail to consider. And in the first instance this will be administered and conducted by the school to submit to the exam board recommendations. We are also considering working with other schools in the local authority to ensure this process is fair and robust. However, in essence:

- Students will be able to appeal their grade
- A student who is unhappy with their grade will first ask their centre to check whether an administrative or procedural error had been made.
- Where a centre does identify an error in the grade submitted to the exam board, it can submit a revised grade and a rationale for the board to consider. If the exam board is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade
- Where a centre does not believe an error had been made, a student can ask the centre to appeal to the exam board on their behalf. The centre will submit the student's appeal to the exam board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made; the exam board will consider whether, in its view, the grade reflected an appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If the exam board judges that it did not, the exam board will determine the grade that the evidence would support. The exam board will also check that the centre had followed its own process.

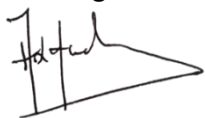
We include below links to the consultation results and also a summary graphic provided by the DfE illustrating the overall process schools will now have to consider in determining grades.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

We shall now work to formulate the details of the process for our school and communicate in due course our approach. Students must realise they still have opportunity to influence their grades and determine their final results. Please continue to Work Hard, Think Big and Be Kind with regard to your futures by ensuring you continue to influence your results this year in the coming weeks.

Kind regards



Dr Adam Hadley
Assistant Head