



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

12 March 2021

Dear Student, Parent/ Carer

## Key Stage 4 and 5 - Interim Assessment Report & assessment news for our examined cohorts

I hope this letter finds you well and those close to you also. It has been brilliant to see students returning to school this week and we look forward to the full resumption of school from 15 March 2021.

I am writing to inform you that today an Interim Assessment report has been published on the MyEd App for you to view (and a link in an email to the first contact on our system). This is the first report for students to be published since roughly this time last year for the majority of our students.

Inevitably, the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic has caused disruption to nearly all school processes over the last year, not least our assessment and reporting cycle. Two major lockdown periods, limited face-to-face teaching and delivery of lessons, remotely, has meant various usual assessment procedures have been delayed or cancelled. For example, the end of year examination series was cancelled in June last year and the usual second academic report home in the summer was not possible and the Year 12 Pre-public examination series was recently cancelled in January.

However, we are conscious that learning has continued, albeit in a non-ideal way, and that it is necessary to provide some indication of how students are doing and how they are engaging with their learning. To this end, we have produced a limited report as we return from a substantial second lockdown period. The purpose of which is to mirror as closely as possible and as meaningfully as we can our usual assessment report whilst acknowledging the difficulties the pandemic has presented in assessing and reporting.

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The report will indicate a working at grade for the end of the first term of this academic year. This is represented as a fine grade (e.g. 1+, 1, or 1- or a P+, P, P- for whether it is a secure grade, likely grade or insecure grade, respectively) for the work that was currently being undertaken at the time of the data collection. Working at grades were determined from assessments and work carried out in the autumn term – the last time students were in school for any prolonged period of time.

With school playing a larger part in the determination of grades for examined cohorts this year (see below), it is very important to be clear that the **working at grade** in this report **must not be seen** as:

- an expected or predicted grade for the students in their whole course; it is the standard they were showing in a more narrow range of material covered at a specific point in the course
- a guarantee of a final grade; they just form one part of a wider range of evidence that will be used to determine grades
- as a ceiling or upper limit to their grades; all students will have opportunity to demonstrate their full potential in any assessments in the next few weeks

The report also indicates an average engagement score 1-4 (as detailed on the report) for the whole of the recent lockdown period. You will have received feedback on student engagement over the course of the last half term through text messages/emails and the report highlights the system of scoring adopted.

As we return from lockdown, this report will form the basis of conversations around student learning, allowing us to take stock and discuss what is needed to be done as we move forward out of lockdown and back into a more standard school experience. Much work to catch up may need to be done but students should use this report as a basis to Think Big, Work Hard and Be kind to themselves as they begin to address making progress and taking control of their futures in the coming weeks.

### **Cohorts Examined this Year**

For students completing courses this year, mainly our Year 11 and Year 13 students, I recently wrote to you discussing the teacher assessment arrangements following the publication of the government's consultation into the awarding of grades for this year. We have been working hard to make sense of those guidelines and formulating a system to assess students in a fair and robust way that assesses the work that has been covered appropriately and that fairly assesses the breadth of the courses studied. We are also ensuring students can still greatly influence the final grades we submit by the deadline of 18 June 2021.

More information will be shared with students over the course of next week that will highlight exactly how and when they will be assessed in each subject, and what exactly will be assessed given all the disruption to the curriculum over the past year. Students should not be anxious but should use the information around the system we will describe as an opportunity to illustrate their best standard in their subjects. They can still greatly influence their grade and progress from where they currently are, perhaps more so than in any other year. Students will not be expected to know missed curriculum content and will only be assessed on work they have been able to be taught properly. They should indeed see the next eight school weeks as a **great opportunity** to guarantee and work toward the best grades possible. Never has Thinking Big, Working Hard and Being Kind to yourself been so relevant!

If there are any questions around the report, please contact the relevant Head of Year in the first instance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Hadley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Adam Hadley  
Assistant Head