

Haywood Academy

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Principal: Mr Mike Dawes



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to explain the process that we will undergo as an academy and exam centre to award your child their GCSE/BTEC grade this summer. As you are aware, the Government has taken the decision to cancel all GCSE/BTEC/Vocational exams taking place in May/June this year. Whilst this time of uncertainty is likely to cause anxiety for many students and parents, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to work to ensure the best outcomes for all of our students. As in 2020, we have designed a system that will ensure the grades determined and awarded are:

- Fair
- Evidenced based
- Without bias
- Quality assured, moderated and standardised

It is important to note that, unlike in 2020, Year 11 have now all returned to the Academy and though there has been a great deal of time lost, the return does allow for our students to continue their study and revision of the curriculum. This gives them the opportunity to add to the evidence their teachers have already collected in a given subject and further support evidence for a fair grade. The exams submission deadline is 18/06/2021 which is designed to allow students as much teaching time as possible before we submit our final assessment grades. We have also set our own internal deadlines to make certain we have completed a robust quality assurance process throughout.

Teachers are ensuring your child will be ready for the next step in their education; they are doing this by continuing with curriculum delivery, as normal, collecting supporting evidence and preparing students in the subject as best they can. It is then planned that in April/May, further evidence will be collected. This will include asking students to undergo some forms of assessment which will likely include the released exam board materials as well as other appropriate content. This will form a very strong piece of evidence in justifying an awarded grade, which we know will be scrutinised and sampled to check our accuracy of input. We are now awaiting the material release from the exam boards to support teachers in coming to their judgements.

I can assure you, we are doing everything in our power to build a fair and accurate evidence base for each student. Our evidence base will consist of the following:

- previous mock exams
- exam released material
- mini assessments
- non-examined assessment evidence
- classwork (work in exercise books)



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part of the
Learning Trust
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- online learning submitted work
- home learning
- photographs of practical work

Each subject will also have their own additional evidence that they wish to submit. Schools will have their internal quality assurance processes signed off by exam boards prior to grade submission, once again, allowing for fair judgement of a grade.

It is important to note that, although these are being deemed teacher assessed grades (TAGs), they are actually Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) – no one individual teacher is responsible for submission. We will continue to cross-moderate with other local schools and teachers, as well as exhausting our own internal moderation and standardisation process.

It is vitally important that you do not request from individual teachers your child's grade. Teachers are not permitted to share the grade being entered with students or their families, but are allowed to share the evidence being used to determine the grade. At Haywood Academy, we will ensure every student is aware of the evidence being used to derive their grade.

Once results are released in August, if students do not believe the correct process has been followed, they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, which is currently planned for autumn 2021.

Please note, results days have been moved to August 10 for A-levels and August 12 for GCSEs.

I do hope this brings some clarity for you regarding the awarding of grades for this summer. If you do have any queries or questions, please feel free to contact me on the Academy telephone number.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Taylor
Senior Vice Principal

