



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

18 March 2021

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 11 and Year 13 Examination Guidance - Summer 2021

As you will be aware, the Government announced on 6 January that GCSE and A Level examinations would be based on Teacher Assessed Grades. This triggered a period of consultation between the Department for Education, OFQUAL and other educational stakeholders, into how this process was to be conducted. We have carefully digested this guidance, and although further detail is required and expected in coming weeks, we are in a position to communicate our intentions alongside key central stipulations.

With the planning of how to implement the guidance, the priority has firmly remained with what is in the best interest of our students. As we have previously stated, we will continue to provide ongoing assessment opportunities for students over the next few months. We will continue to assess using classroom tasks, topic based tests and any relevant coursework. We are planning a final assessment window at the end of May to give students a final opportunity to demonstrate progress made over recent months.

An overview of the key principles behind the awarding of grades this summer has been released by OFQUAL.

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p>

I appreciate that you, and our students, are likely have multiple questions at this time regarding what the next few months will look like. I will be speaking to all students in Years 11 and 13 this week and we have planned a virtual Q&A session for parents to provide some detail behind the OFQUAL document included. Links for these will be available on the school website under 2021 Exam Q&A Sessions section.

- Parents' Presentation and Q&A – Year 11 Monday 22 March – 5.00 - 6.00 pm
- Parents' Presentation and Q&A – Year 13 Monday 22 March – 6.00 – 7.00 pm

In addition, I have included with this letter some FAQ's which might help to provide you with some further clarity.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Finch
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher • Andrew Harvison BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Yeldham Road • Sible Hedingham • Essex • CO9 3QH • Telephone 01787 460470

e-mail: enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk • Website: www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk • Registered Company No. 8330173



Approved Centre



How GCSE's and A Levels will be awarded this summer – FAQs

What evidence will teachers use to generate my grade?

Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that your teachers have delivered. This will include on-going topic tests. However, we will use a variety of evidence to inform final grade decisions (including coursework in subjects where this counts towards the final grade, substantial classwork tasks, essays, etc).

Is there any point in continuing with my school work if exams have been cancelled?

YES! All students will continually be assessed and GCSE/A Level grades can only be awarded based on evidence. Any ongoing work from this point towards our internal topic tests will be valuable in enabling you to show what you are capable of. Often students peak towards the later stages of Year 11 and 13 and our intention is to continue to support you in producing evidence of improving quality.

Do I need to continue with my coursework?

Yes. Many subjects are using coursework to help generate your Teacher Assessed Grade and it is an important piece of evidence to help your teacher make this judgement. Continued improvement in coursework projects is a valued investment of your time.

Will we sit further exams?

You will continue to sit topic tests and assessments within your subjects. As some of these topic tests may extend to beyond an hour, they will be completed in the sports hall. These more extended topic tests may enable you to demonstrate your improving knowledge. We intend to put these as late as possible so your teachers have time to support you towards them. Exam boards are providing schools with assessment materials to support this process.

What if I do really badly in the final tests?

You Teacher Assessed Grade does not hinge on just these tests. If you manage to do really well, then your teachers will likely use this evidence to support their final judgement. If it doesn't go well, we can use evidence from more historic assessments.

Does my predicted grade on my most recent progress report guarantee me that grade at the end of the course?

No, this grade is a prediction based on evidence at the time. A lot can change in the time between when that prediction was made and when grades are finally submitted. Consistent hard work and focus as we move forward could quite possibly have a positive impact on your last predicted grade.

Can my teachers tell me what grade they are most likely going to give me?

No. Guidance receives indicates that this information cannot be shared with students or parents. This would constitute malpractice. Please do not ask your teachers for this information, they cannot disclose this information.

What about content that we have missed?

Subject teachers have worked hard to look at content that has not been taught in sufficient depth and have removed this from assessments. We don't have to assess everything, only what you have been taught.

How will the school support me in the next few months?

We want to offer you as much support as possible. We want to be able to give our students the best grades possible whilst remaining fair, objective and professional. Teachers will communicate what is ahead with students and also we will centrally provide an overview of the content of future assessments so that you can revise and prepare. We will support your preparation in class but also with extra-curricular revision sessions and targeted intervention.

Who do I speak to if I have concerns about my subjects?

Initially, speak to your subject teacher about your concerns. You can also speak to your tutor.