



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,,

Firstly we would like to thank you for all the messages of support, appreciation and thanks that we have received since the current health crisis began. The continual success of all our students over the years wouldn't be possible without the high level of encouragement and support received from parents and carers.

We would also like to say the announcements made by Boris Johnson and Gavin Williamson last Wednesday were as much of a surprise to staff as they were to our students. We were not expecting examinations to be cancelled and our immediate concern was the wellbeing of our Year 11 and 13 students. Thursday morning was spent trying to give these students some element of the goodbye they deserved, whilst trying to also comfort them in a time of uncertainty. We hope that they have since had some time to process what has happened and are able to better understand the result of these changes. We would also like to share with you the message that Mr Wood shared with the students in their assemblies on Thursday; 'if all of this can help save even one life, it is the right decision'.

On Friday afternoon, we received information from the Department for Education (please see this link for more information - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#)) about how qualifications will be issued, the key points are listed below:

- The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessment (coursework).
- The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including students' prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student.
- Exam boards are planning to issue grades at the end of July and these will be considered formal grades with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.

**"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016**



- In addition, the DfE also announced that there will be a clear appeals procedure with the opportunity to undertake an exam in September if a student feels their grade does not reflect what they believe they would have been likely to achieve.

Essentially, this means we as a school will be asked to provide teacher grades that will help contribute towards determining a final grade. We are yet to be given specific guidelines on the information we are to produce further than this. However, we can assure you that staff will be instructed to decide on predicted grades that do not disadvantage students in any way and that are fair. At this point we ask that students do not contact their teachers to request the grade that they will be given, we are at an early stage of setting up procedures for this and we are waiting for further government guidelines. It is also important to note that final grades will not be determined just based on teacher predictions but also other data.

Please be aware that if your daughter is studying a BTEC qualification this will be awarded a grade in the usual way and that she should aim to complete any outstanding coursework or assignments.

We would also like to say that your children are still very much part of our school community, we are here to continue to support them as we always have done. We are currently working on making arrangements for Year 11 students who are planning to progress into Sixth Form to access extended learning opportunities via Google Classroom and other resources; details about this will be communicated once systems are in place.

We will be providing information with regard to preparatory work for Year 13 students who are planning to progress on to university, this information will focus on the best ways to access reading lists and resources that will help students prepare for transition to university.

We would also like to advise Year 13 students who are in the process of making university choices to continue making their choices in the same way they would have previously, had the exams taken place. The cancellation of exams should not mean that student expectations change.

Finally we would like to wish our students and their families health and happiness in the future, we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood  
Co-Headteacher

Ms T Nickson  
Co-Headteacher

Mr H Pandya  
Assistant Headteacher