



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Co-Headteachers: Ms T Nickson BEd (Hons), MA, NPQH, FCCT

Mr A Wood BA (Oxon), PGCE, MBA, NPQH

Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL T: 01707 275331

Email: admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk Website: www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

BHGS is a company limited by guarantee Company number: 07831507 Charity number: EW01517



3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ofqual have today published their guidance for how GCSE, AS and A Levels will be awarded in Summer 2020. This is national guidance that applies to all schools and can be found in full here: [How GCSEs, AS & A levels will be awarded in summer 2020](#). Please note that this guidance does not apply to BTEC courses and pupils should continue to submit assignments for these where requested by staff.

We are including some of the key points from the guidance in this letter and have copied below a letter from Ofqual addressed to all GCSE and A Level students. The guidance is largely as we had anticipated; schools are being asked to provide centre assessed grades for students in all subjects. These grades should be: *'fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades schools and colleges believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams, and should take into account the full range of available evidence.'*

The guidance states that: *schools should balance different sources of evidence such as:*

- *classwork*
- *bookwork*
- *any participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama or PE*
- *any non-exam assessment – whether or not complete*
- *the results of any assignments or mock exams*
- *previous examination results – for example, for any re-sitting students or those with relevant AS qualifications*
- *any other records of student performance over the course of study*

No single piece of evidence has been deemed as having more value than the others.

The deadline for submission of grades will be no earlier than 29th May 2020. It is also very clear that schools should **not** inform pupils of the grade that the school has submitted: *Schools and colleges have been told that they must not share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued.* It should be noted that the grade submitted by the school may not be the same as the final grade awarded as Ofqual will be scrutinising grades awarded by all schools and ensuring that this has been done fairly.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



We already have very robust systems in place for tracking and monitoring our pupils and know our pupils very well. We know that past performance is not always a true predictor of final outcomes and our staff will use the full range of evidence when making their decisions. We will be working on the details of how we will implement this process over the next few weeks and we are expecting further guidance on the practicalities. Please do not approach the school or individual teaching staff asking for information about the grade that may be awarded, or asking for special consideration. If we require any information from pupils or parents then we will be in touch. There is no requirement to submit or produce any more work: *Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.*

The Chief Regulator has made it clear that: *School or college based assessment already has an important role in many GCSEs, AS and A levels and in extraordinary circumstances such as these, schools and colleges are best placed to judge the likely performance of their students at the end of the course.* We will use all evidence and our expert professional judgement and will have our own internal moderation procedures in school to ensure that we conduct this process as fairly as possible.

We do appreciate that this is a frustrating time for many pupils. Just as would have been the case had they sat their exams, they will have to wait now until final publication of results, which Ofqual hope to publish by the end of July. We assure you that there will be a team of staff available when the results are published to answer any queries you may have regarding the grades themselves and progression to either Post 16 study, employment, further or higher education.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood

Co-Headteacher

Ms T Nickson

Co-Headteacher



GCSE, AS and A level students in England

3 April 2020

A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With very best wishes,

Sally Collier,

S. Collier

Chief Regulator, Ofqual