

Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Arrangements for Public Examinations

The Department for Education has now released some information about how they will award qualifications in Summer 2020 following the cancellation of all public examinations. We are waiting on more detailed announcements from Ofqual next week and will update you as we receive more direction. The key information so far is outlined below:

- Teachers will submit an estimated grade which reflects their judgement about the grade they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead, taking into account a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams and non-exam assessments (eg. classwork and homework).
- The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student.
- Exam boards are aiming to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- If students do not feel the awarded grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to appeal and will be given the option to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021. We do not yet know how the decision to contest a grade will impact on university or college offers.

This process has a number of implications:

1. The school will submit our estimated grades, calculated on the basis of a professional prediction which takes into account the student's holistic performance throughout the course. You will soon be able to view current predicted grades through the DPR which will give you an indication of a likely estimated grade. Please note that we will calculate the estimated grade using the guidance and instructions issued by Ofqual. Please note that teachers will not be persuaded to change these grades; it is vital that the integrity of those predictions stand. This is critical so that the process is as fair as possible for all students and no child receives inflated predictions due to parental or student pressure.
2. The awarded grade will not necessarily be the same as the estimated grade submitted by the school. The exam boards will adjust the schools submitted grades taking into account other data, such as the prior attainment of the students. This may mean that individual students feel that the awarded grade is not a fair reflection of their current ability or performance.
3. In order to keep the option open of contesting a grade they are unhappy with, students will need to continue to work hard on their courses so that they would be able to perform well in the exam which forms part of this appeal process. This would be the **only** route of appeal open to them so it is important they are prepared for this eventuality. We do not yet know how appealing a grade would affect university or college offers.
4. Given the unorthodox circumstances in which these qualifications are awarded, they may have less credibility as a marker of an individual's academic record. It is even more important for students, therefore, to prepare fully for the next stage of their education. For Year 11, this means being well

Weymouth Terrace, London, E2 8LS
Haggerstonschool@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk

T 020 7739 7324 - F 020 7 739 8603
www.haggerston.hackney.sch.uk
Headteacher Ms Ciara Emmerson
Chair of Governors Wendy Mason



prepared for A-Levels and other Post 16 courses and for Year 13, for degree level courses and apprenticeships. How students utilise the next few months for longer term preparation will be important to how well they make the transition to the next stage of their education and their outcomes at that level.

Please discuss these points with your child over the coming days and encourage them to stay motivated and take a long term view of their educational journey. We sincerely hope that the awarded grades will be a fair and true reflection of the excellent work which both Year 11 and Year 13 students are capable of. We do not yet know how the adjustments made by the exam boards will affect individuals or the outcomes as a whole but will communicate with you any new information or updates we receive.

We will be writing to Year 11 students separately about arrangements for Sixth Form enrolment and how this process will work in due course. We will also explain how results days/university enrolment will work and what support we can offer to students.

Best wishes to you all during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Ciara Emmerson
Headteacher

