



**Year 13 Update:**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear All,

Please read the following update carefully and make use of any website links/information contained.

Following the government's announcement last night regarding new and tighter restrictions on movement; unless already identified as a child of a keyworker coming to school to be supervised, Huish Sixth is completely closed to all other students.

**Exam results and grades:**

Ofqual have yet to provide schools with the actual detail of how this is going to be calculated but they have issued some initial guidance as follows:

Teacher predictions: Taking into account overall performance in the subject, classroom assessments and mock exams. We will not be entering/generating any final predictions until we have the specific Ofqual guidance.

KS2/4 Prior attainment: This will be one of the pieces of data that Ofqual will also use to calculate final grades.

The latest Ofqual guidance can be read below: Taken from the website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. 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 on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. 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, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in. Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

## **Post 18 information, including university, apprenticeships etc.**

### **Here is the latest advice from UCAS**

Here at UCAS we've been looking at how we can significantly enhance and extend flexibility within the admissions process. The areas we're currently focused on are:

- upcoming decision and reply deadlines – **please don't encourage your students to make knee-jerk decisions at this time**
- the qualification awarding process and how places will be confirmed if exams don't go ahead
- the impact on Confirmation and Clearing

We're working closely with the UK governments and examination awarding bodies to work out the best solutions for everyone, and will communicate any changes to you in a timely manner, with regular updates, often on a daily basis. I'd like to ask for your support in reassuring applicants, and working with us to give them the very latest advice.

There was also an article on the BBC this morning warning universities about pressurising students to take unconditional offers so please take time to read it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52010858>

Info on apprenticeships:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

Applications for Student Finance - need to be completed now:

[https://logon.slc.co.uk/cas/login?\\_locale=en\\_GB&service=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.student-finance.service.gov.uk%2Fcustomer%2Fhome%2Fpages](https://logon.slc.co.uk/cas/login?_locale=en_GB&service=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.student-finance.service.gov.uk%2Fcustomer%2Fhome%2Fpages)

Gap year:

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about>

Late applications to university - after 30th June

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

### **Health and Well-Being:**

The links below provides advice and resources for young adults, please take time to browse:

<https://www.happymaps.co.uk/age-group/young-adults>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/>

**Finally:**

Please follow the PHE and Government instruction regarding movement and social distancing. Use skype, facetime etc to stay in touch with friends and extended family. Please take care and I will update you again as soon as I have further information.  
Many thanks all.

**Andrew Woodward**  
**Assistant Principal: Head of Huish Sixth**