



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



26th February 2021

Updated information for Year 11, 12, & 13 students

Dear Parents / Carers,

I know many of you have been very anxious and concerned about the processes for GCSE and A levels this summer. Ever since the Government announced that exams will not go ahead, we have been waiting to know what will happen.

On Thursday this week the Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson shed a great deal of clarity on this, his full letter can be found here:

[Letter from Gavin Williamson to Ofqual \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92414/letter-from-gavin-williamson-to-ofqual-2021-02-25.pdf)

Along with the response from the exams regulator Ofqual here:

[Letterhead \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92414/letterhead-2021-02-25.pdf)

And also, a nice “pictorial” infographic exploring the information here:

[Infographic - how GCSEs AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92414/infographic-how-gcse-as-and-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2021.pdf)

What this tells us is this:

- There will definitely be no GCSE and A level examinations this summer (no surprises there). This also includes BTEC and OCR courses and we are expecting updates from examining boards shortly and will post information on our school website.
- The grades will be based on teacher assessments of the standard students are working at.
- I can assure you that the evidence for these teacher assessments will be based on a range of sources, including the work students have already done, assessments taken at school and at home, coursework and homework.
- We may also use some extra exam questions that the examination boards will supply near Easter time if we feel that extra evidence is needed.
- The teacher assessment will not be driven by any one element, but a holistic view across a portfolio of work.
- We already have a body of evidence for each student, but to ensure that we can supply exam boards with the teachers’ assessments that reflect what each student deserves, it is critical every student keeps working and doing their very best in all circumstances.
- We will not be running a “formal” Mock exam week but will have continuous ongoing assessments to support the evidence gathering. This is to maximise teaching time and further reduce undue stress and anxiety on students.
- The school will run a comprehensive internal moderation and Quality Assurance process to ensure that grades submitted are fair.
- We will be transparent about the evidence being used and this will be shared with students to ensure they are aware of how they are performing and what they can do to improve their portfolio in each subject.



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



- We need to submit the grades to exam boards by the 18th June 2021. The examination boards will then go through a Quality Assurance (QA) process to ensure the grades have been awarded fairly. Consequently, unless we are informed, we will not release the teacher assessed grades to students / parents. This will be the role of the examination boards.
- Therefore, the 18th June 2021, will be the last official working day for Year 11 and Year 13 students.
- Exam results will be published and available to students on
 - Tuesday 10th August: A Level/BTEC Qualifications
 - Thursday 12th August: GCSE
- There will be an appeals system for any student who believes that their grade has been unfairly awarded. In the first instance this will be directed to the school. Part of the reason for bringing results forward earlier is to ensure appeals can be supported without impacting on UCAS applications.

On Wednesday 3rd March we have a year 11 parents 'consultation event. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the subject teachers to share the current state of play, the work and effort that is needed to ensure students are awarded the fair representative grade for you and the support we can give in the coming months.

To put it simply **ALL** students, have everything to play for. The work **submitted** between **NOW** and the latter part of May 2021, **CAN** make all the difference. I can also reassure you that we are very mindful of the impact the pandemic has had on all students, but particularly the uncertainty for GCSE and A Level examination students in years 11 to 13. Continued physical and mental wellbeing is as important to your success and you can be assured that we will be here to guide, support and nurture everyone. Please contact the year teams if there is anything you feel we can do to help you at this time.

I am sure there will be more information in the coming weeks and months and as always, we shall continue to keep you abreast of it all.

Have a lovely weekend,

With kind regards,

Mr J Boyes