



25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to say that the government has today released the initial guidance on how exam grades will be calculated this summer. No system is perfect, but as always, the staff at Hazeley will do our very best to ensure that all our young people get the grades that they deserve so that they can progress to the next stage of their education or career. The details below are our initial interpretation, and I am sure that you will understand that this may change as things develop.

How will the grades be calculated?

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, only being assessed on what they have been taught.
- A series of mini-internal tests, using questions designed by exam boards and marked by the teachers may be used. We expect these to link to PPEs (Pre Public Exams/ Mocks). These will support other evidence such as past assessments and coursework.
- No algorithms from OFQUAL will be used to calculate grades.
- Students studying vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) such as BTECs and IFS that are taught alongside GCSEs and A levels on one or two year courses, and used for university or college places, will also receive grades assessed by teachers rather than sitting exams.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.

How will we ensure that the grades are fair?

- To ensure grades are as fair as possible, we will follow all the government and exam board guidance for checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed.
- At the same time, exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny.
- Staff will share outcomes of any mini assessments, but to reduce the risk of pressure from parents/ students influencing teacher forecasts, staff in the Academy will not be allowed to discuss the final grades until results days.
- We expect the overall grades awarded for this cohort of students to be similar to last year.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade through the OFQUAL appeals process.

When will the grades be submitted/ teaching end?

- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18th June, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.
- We will clarify shortly when we will stop teaching.

When will results day be?

Results days will be moved forward to 10th August for A levels (Year 13) and 12th August for GCSEs (Year 11). These earlier dates provide additional time for appeals to be completed, so students reliant on those outcomes to achieve their university offer have the best chance of accessing a place.

This year our students are now more in control of their exam outcomes than ever before (and possibly ever will be in the future), so it is the perfect time to work with their teachers and really shine. We are incredibly proud of the hard work they have put into their studies so far during this difficult time and are excited to see what they will achieve.

If you have any further questions or comments please contact Mrs Mayles for KS5 or Miss Whiteman for Year 11.

Kind regards

Mr Nelson