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Dear Students

On 20th March schools across the country were ordered to close because of the threat of Covid – 19. This brought about a premature end to the Year 13 programme of study and of course led to the cancellation of the 2020 public examination season. The Department for Education has now released guidance to schools as well as to students and their parents regarding the awarding of grades and how these will be calculated. Please see the attached letter released to students by the DFE outlining the next steps in calculating the grades.

There will now be no more work set or expected from our Year 13 students and teachers will begin the process of determining grades for both A Levels as well as vocational subjects as per the guidelines. The deadline for the return of this information from schools to the Department for Education is the 29th May. Please note that we will not be able to answer any individual questions from parents or students with regards to the awarding of grades or the rankings given to submitted grades. As announced on the 15th of April, results will be made available as originally expected on the **13th August** and not in July as was announced earlier. We will write to you again later in the Summer Term to outline the plans for the collection of results on that date.

It is crucial however, that you understand that you will be at a disadvantage if you lose the drive to succeed. It is important that you maintain a level of determination and resilience that means that you begin to prepare for the first year at university by reading widely and pursuing a range of short courses that will stand you in good stead for your chosen degree programme. Your teachers have very kindly agreed to provide some resources that should prove beneficial and while they are not exhaustive they should still provide at least a starting point for your preparation for university. This information will be sent to you from the week beginning the **27th April** and we are strongly advising that you make good use of these resources.

We would also like to remind you that you have until the **18th June** to decide on your firm and insurance offer via UCAS. You should also by now have received further information from the Post 16 Team as to how to go about applying for student finance. It is best to try and do this as early as possible and your parents/carers will need their income details from the 2018 to 2019 financial year to support your application. If you have any further questions about the process, please contact us by email so that we can help.

Please also note the following:

- Bursary payments will continue up until June
- If applicable your parents should be receiving free school meal vouchers via email or the post
- You may still apply for apprenticeships via this link:
<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>
- UPTREE also has available a range of opportunities to liaise with businesses in a range of disciplines via Zoom so you should continue to apply via their website to participate

I am also including below a range of mental health and well-being resources that you might find useful during these unprecedented times.

Useful links to support your Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health support : [Young Minds](#)
[Kooth](#)

Meditation and sleep : <https://www.headspace.com/>

Relax – mindfulness and meditation app : <https://www.calm.com/signup-flow>

Physical activities: [Sport England : Join the Movement](#)

Musical activities : [Song sheets for those with instruments](#)
[Activities for those without instruments](#)

While the year has not concluded in the way I had hoped, I want to wish you all the best as you look towards starting the next phase of your education or pursue your career goals. It was an immense pleasure to work with you and be part of your journey and I do hope that you keep in touch with us here at Heston.

Yours faithfully,



Ms I Hall
Director of Sixth Form