

A message from OFQUAL for all GCSE and A-level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We are working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

Sally Collier Chief Regulator, Ofqual

Other Questions Year 11 Students May Need Answering

When will I get my results?

- The GCSE results date has been confirmed as 20th August 2020

What work should I be doing right now?

- It is important that you complete the work that has been set by your English and Maths teachers so that have achieved full coverage of these Core Subjects
- It is also important that all your Transitional Work for your chosen courses have been completed to prepare you for your next stage of learning.

When do my Holidays start?

- Teachers have been asked to set you work in English and Maths until at least 22nd May.
- All Transitional Work for Post 16 studies will need to be completed before your first lesson in the new academic year

How can I return resources I have borrowed from the School?

- Please return all resources on the Results Day or Enrolment Day

How do I apply for Sixth Form?

- You can apply on our school website <https://heston.applicaa.com/2>
- If issues arise please contact Ms Hall ihall@hestoncs.org

What are the entry requirements for Sixth Form?

- An average GCSE point score of 43+ to follow an A Level programme of study. Individual subject entry requirements must also be met:
- <https://www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=233>
- An average GCSE point score of 30+ to follow a BTEC Level 3 programme of study
- An average GCSE point score of 20+ to follow a NCFE Level 2 programme of study
- Courses will only be offered subject to demand and staff availability

What can I do to prepare for Sixth Form?

- It is extremely important that you ensure you have a solid foundation of knowledge before you undertake Post 16 Study. For example, if you are hoping to do Biology A-Level, your teachers will expect you to have an in-depth understanding of all of GCSE Biology topics
- Teachers will be issuing "Transition Work" to be completed before you start Year 12

If you have any further questions then please email these to ihall@hestoncs.org

In these very unusual and difficult times it is partially important that you look after your mental health, it may feel very overwhelming and challenging, but please remember you are not on your own.

Remember you can email your tutor or another member of staff that you feel comfortable talking with.

Below are also a number of agencies you can contact for support.

Young Hounslow - <https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/kb5/hounslow/fsd/newyouth.page>

Hounslow's new youth website providing help and support for young people. Use this to find helpful services in your locality.

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger - text YM to 85258

The Crisis Messenger text service provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can text YM to 85258. (Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus)

Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

Childline - 0800 11111 / www.childline.org.uk (online 1-2-1 counsellor chat)

Support for children and young people in the UK, including a free 24-hour helpline.

Childline has launched Calm Zone - an online hub of calming techniques and resources for young people to help them feel better when they feel anxious, scared or sad.

Website: www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone

PAPYRUS - HOPE Line UK 0800 068 4141

Confidential help and advice to young people and anyone worried about a young person

Website: www.papyrus-uk.org

ChatHealth (Advice for Teens in Hounslow) - Text: 07507 333 176

This service is provided by the Hounslow school nursing service for all young people aged 11-19. You will get a reply within 24 hours from an NHS School Nurse between 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

The Mix - 0808 8080 4994 / www.themix.org.uk

Online guide to life for 16-25 year-olds in the UK. Emotional support is available 24 hours a day. On the website, you can chat about anything you like on their moderated discussion boards and live chat room.

FRANK - 0300 123 6600 / www.talktofrank.com

Confidential advice and information about drugs, their effects and the law.

Kooth - www.kooth.com

Counsellors available until 10pm every day. Free, safe and anonymous online counselling for young people.

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247