



1 April 2020

Dear Students and Families,

## **Year 11 - Examinations, Assessments and Moving on**

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are well and that you are adapting to our temporary way of life. It's a big change but by following government advice we will all be able to return to some normality, sooner.

You have been extremely patient over the past week or so while we awaited news and advice from the Department for Education (DFE) and OfQual which is the government office that oversees qualifications and assessments across the country. There is still a lot they need to clarify and we are expecting more information this week but we wanted to share with you what we know so far and some of the things we are doing to ensure you continue to be well supported by us.

### **What we know:**

- The GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams this summer have been cancelled.
- The government is aiming for grades to still be awarded to you for all the qualifications you have been taking.
- Measures are being put in place by the DFE to ensure grades fairly reflect the work you have put in to your subjects – even if you have not yet finished some of the coursework.

### **How will your final grades be produced?**

- Your teachers will be asked to make a judgement about the grade they believe you would have got if you had sat the exams or finished the course entirely, a bit like a predicted grade.
- This judgement will take into account your PPE exam results, any coursework you have completed as well as other school assessments and tests that you have completed. It will also take in to account the work they have seen from you on a day to day basis and everything they know about your knowledge, skills and ability in their subject.
- Once we have returned these to the exam board they will then combine the judgements made by your teachers with other data which is available about students, for example: Key Stage 2 SATs results, where these are available and your target grades.
- This information will then be used to calculate your final grade in each subject.
- The same process will be used by every exam board in every school, for every student and every qualification.

### **What happens if I am not happy with the grade I am awarded?**

- You will be able to appeal if you believe the grade awarded is too low.
- You will also be able sit an exam 'at the earliest opportunity' in each subject if you are still unhappy with the grade (the timing of this will depend on when the virus outbreak is contained and things return to 'normal').
- You will also be able to sit your exams in summer 2021 (we do not yet know exactly how this will work).

### Things to note:

- We are unsure how many exams you will need to take in each subject if you decide to sit them 'at the earliest opportunity' or in summer 2021.
- These proposals are sketchy and more details are going to be released soon.

**It is important that you keep all your past PPE/practise exam papers, exercise books and internal assessments and tests as these may be needed by your teachers to support their judgement. We will keep everything we have such as your most recent PPE papers.**

### What to do now:

Even though you will not be sitting your exams the content of the courses you start next year will assume you have a certain level of knowledge and skill from Year 11. It is important that you keep focused on your school work. We have asked your teachers to keep setting relevant work on Show My Homework. Where the content had not yet been fully covered your teachers will focus on this and you will see this begin to appear in the next few days. We will set work up until around the time we would have finished teaching you. We understand however, that it will be sensible to prioritise your time on subjects you plan to continue with next year. If you need to contact your teacher you can do so through the messaging system on SMHW.

### Your next steps:

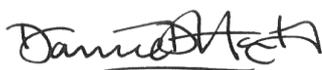
We know that some of you will be feeling quite uncertain about your plans for next year. In order to reassure you and give you peace of mind all Year 11 students will now be eligible for an unconditional place in The Hayesbrook School Sixth Form. **If you have already applied your place is now confirmed and you will be hearing from Mr Reader, Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form, in the coming days.**

If you would now like to make an application our course offer for September 2020 is available [here](#). An application form is also attached. Please submit your application to [post16@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk](mailto:post16@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Places are unconditional in that we see the need to be more flexible with some of our usual entry requirements - obviously we will want to have a discussion with you about the appropriateness of courses you might be interested in to be sure they are right for you and that you can be brilliantly successful in them. We will be contacting all Year 11 students who have not already applied, by telephone during the first two weeks after the Easter break to discuss your options and how we can help. Please do not feel you need to wait for that call to submit your application form. Should you have any questions please get in touch using the same email address. We will monitor this address over the Easter holiday.

The end of Year 11 ended unexpectedly quickly – we did not get the chance to say goodbye to you in the way we would choose and so when it is time we will look at how we can organise something to mark the end of this important stage of your lives and give your teachers a chance to wish you well for the future.

We will be back in touch as soon as we have any more information. Until then, look after yourselves and be assured we will do everything needed to support you. If you need us just ask.

From everyone here, our best wishes to you and your family.



Daniel Hatley  
Executive Principal



Collette Nelson  
Head of School