

27 March 2020

Dear Year 11 students,

We would like to congratulate you on how you have conducted yourself during your last few days at Hungerhill School and for all of your hard work and commitment during the past five years with us.

We know public examinations for this year have been cancelled. Most of you have told us that you feel cheated by this. We know how hard you worked and how well you would have done. You are probably very worried. You are probably anxious about what will happen next year and where you will study, or what you will do. This is all to be expected.

Many questions must be on your mind at present. What GCSE grades will I get? What happens about sixth-form admissions or other next steps? What do I do now with my time? How will we say goodbye after five good years together?

Whilst it is probably too early in this process to provide a definitive answer to all of the questions, I hope my answers here will be of use to you. It might be that you have further questions. As news comes in and decisions are made we'll write to update you.

Are all exams cancelled?

Yes. The May/June examination series is definitely cancelled. No papers will be issued this summer and no school or college will be able to run exams. Even if things improve in terms of the COVID-19 situation – as we're hoping they will – exams will not go ahead this summer.

How will grades be awarded now?

The government has stated that, "the calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges". We don't know the details of this process at this time but will of course, do all in our power to ensure that it is as fair as possible. We do know that it will be more complicated than students just getting their predicted grade. The government has said that "we know that simply using predicted grades would not be fair to all students. The calculated grade will take into account teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment, so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect their predicted grades." Basically, the school will submit an estimated grade based on the evidence we have from assessments and from teaching you. Please can we ask that you do not contact school and request these grades. Currently we are unable to release these. Once the exam board's have received the estimated grades, the Government's statisticians will then go to work, and they may agree with the grade – or adjust it if they think that it's too high or too low.

I heard that you can appeal a grade or sit exams in the autumn; is that right?

Yes. If you think you've been awarded the wrong grade you will have three options:



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1. Appeal the grade right away – in which case you will need evidence that you are working at a higher standard than this
2. Sit an exam, probably in September (or as soon as is reasonably possible after schools open again)
3. Wait until summer 2021 and resit the subject. There are no details on how any of this will work quite yet, but it's good to know that we will have options.

When will I know my grades?

By the end of July – which is some way off! The best approach is to try not to think too much about that – just keep working to the standard of your personal best.

Will there be anything for Year 11 leavers?

We'd love to put something on for you all as a year group, and we've begun to think about this already. We think the best option is to wait and see how things develop and then plan something later on when we know where we stand with social distancing restrictions. We'll be sure to consult with you as a year group about what you would like.

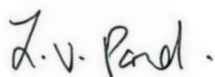
Is there anything I can get involved in during this time?

Yes. Below is a link to a project set up by the World Class Schools organisation. If you follow the link and open the "Year 11" documents you will find instructions to participate in a project that makes life better for people during these challenging times. You will be invited to set up your own project and complete the proformas demonstrating the skills you have used and showing how what you have done has made a difference. There are examples given to help you and you could receive certificates at different levels from World Class Schools.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19_wMwjlaqT_69H8LmknXUnygmrxipwVX?usp=sharing

Please be assured that over the coming months we will do all we can to make sure you end up in the right places doing the right things. You will hear from us. When you walked out of the school gates, you did not disappear from our lives. We will be in communication with you as soon as we get more information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond
Interim Headteacher



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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