



**NORTHOLT
HIGH SCHOOL**
Committed to excellence

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24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you about what we have learnt so far regarding the process by which your child's GCSE grades will be determined following the announcement last Wednesday that all examinations have been cancelled as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Last Friday the Secretary of State for Education published a [statement](#) outlining the key aspects of the process by which GCSE students would be awarded. It will involve the use of teacher judgements. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. Clear guidance on how teachers are to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges in the coming weeks. We will be contacted no later than April with further details on how and when to submit these teacher judgements.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data. This will include exam boards looking at students' attainment in Key Stage 2 tests at primary school, where this applies. The exam boards will use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will reflect a positive assessment of students' work. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and the various exam boards are in the process of finalising an approach to do this, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. Their aim is clearly to ensure that students will not be disadvantaged, so please encourage your child not to worry.

The intention is to provide these calculated grades to students before the **end of July**. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. Exam boards will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

We have been told that should a student not be happy with the grade they have been awarded, they will have the option to sit an exam early in the next academic year.

We will aim to keep you informed of any new developments with regards to your child's final grades. We appreciate that this is an extremely difficult time for everyone and in particular for your child who has been working hard gearing themselves up to face their final exams.

At the moment, we are asking teachers to continue setting work for GCSE classes. This is because we are receiving feedback from students that they would like this as it is helping them develop routines for home learning. However we are also working with staff so that in the next two weeks, we will begin setting work which will help students 'bridge the gap' between their GCSE courses and their chosen areas of study for

next academic year. So, for example, if a student is interested in studying A Levels in Science next year, we will enrol them in A Level Science Google Classroom classes and start setting them work which will prepare them for their courses next year. Hopefully this will provide students with greater purpose in their home learning and support them so that they do well when they begin these courses. Please bear with us as we set this up as it will take us some time.

Your child may find they have a number of questions or concerns about progressing into post-16 education and training. Our Connexions advisor Clare Rodway will be available to provide support to students remotely through email (rodwayc@ealing.gov.uk) or direct telephone (07925 892 604) every Monday between 9am and 3pm.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Haresnape', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Haresnape
Deputy Headteacher