



# HOWDEN SCHOOL

Derwent Road • Howden • East Yorkshire • DN14 7AL  
T: 01430 430448 • F: 01430 432435 • E: office@howdenschool.net  
Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

26 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you with further developments regarding Year 11 Qualifications. I will continue to do so as we receive more information from the government. We understand that this is a very difficult time for students and parents. The teaching staff and I are also disappointed that the examination series will not continue as usual following all the hard work of students and staff.

I am sure that, following the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Education on Wednesday 18 March 2020, you will already be aware of the decision not to proceed with the examinations in England this summer. The Secretary of State for Education has now published a statement outlining the key aspects of the process, which will involve the use of teacher judgements.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced> )

## **GCSE Qualifications:**

Schools have been advised that teacher judgements will be based on the overall qualification grade each learner is likely to achieve at the end of their course of study. This will be based on their performance across a range of formative and summative assessments, including performance in both mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. Teacher judgements, for this purpose, are not ambitious grades that learners might aspire to achieve, but are the grades the learners would have likely achieved if the exams had gone ahead.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in. The aim 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. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. They will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

## **Vocational, Technical and other Academic Qualifications:**

There are a very wide range of different vocational and technical qualifications as well as other academic qualifications for which students were expecting to sit exams this summer. These are offered by a large number of awarding organisations, and have differing assessment approaches. In many cases students will already have completed modules or non-exam assessment, which could provide evidence to award a grade. Ofqual is working urgently with this sector to explore options and we will work with them to provide more details shortly. However, it should be noted that students may continue to work on internally assessed units at home under the guidance of their teacher. This can be marked and taken into consideration when assigning a final grade, so could benefit the student greatly.



**Year 11 Work:**

Where teachers had not completed courses before the closure, we are uploading work to DODDLE and the Foldr area. Links to these are to be found on the school website. It is important that students continuing with subject areas in the Sixth Form and at Colleges complete this work to ensure they are not disadvantaged.

If a young person does believe that they may wish to take up the opportunity to sit an examination in a later sitting, we would recommend that they continue with their revision at this time. Please note; we do not yet have any details about these proposed examinations.

We understand that this is a stressful time, and we want to reassure parents that we will follow the guidance given to us about making teacher judgements, when we receive it. We will continue to update parents and students as we receive information from the Examination Boards.

We have been contacted by a number of post-16 providers and we have tweeted messages from some local colleges saying that the situation will not affect places and that they will be in touch with applicants.

Stay safe everyone and we will look forward to seeing you all in the future.

Yours faithfully



**Mr G Cannon**  
**Headteacher**