



# Holly Lodge High School

College of Science

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8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, earlier this week the Prime Minister announced that there would be changes to the way in which grades would be awarded to students this summer in light of the amount of time students have had to spend away from school due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, confirmed that all A level, AS level & GCSE examinations will be cancelled and that grades for these subjects will be awarded by Teacher Assessment. We are awaiting further guidance with regards to what this will entail.

At the same time, it is with regret that we have had to cancel the planned controlled assessment and examinations in vocational qualifications as part of the January examination series on health and safety grounds.

The Department for Education has released guidance stating that no student will be unfairly disadvantaged as a result of cancelled vocational qualifications, which is widespread in schools and colleges nationally. I appreciate the time and effort that students will have put into preparing for these assessments, however, we must prioritise the health & safety of staff and students. Arrangements for the awarding of BTEC/Cambridge National Qualifications are yet to be announced.

It is essential that your child continues to engage fully in the remote learning programme (as detailed on the school website) as well as in face to face lessons when students return to school. Students must continue to work to their optimum level and avoid the temptation to ease off from their studies in what has been a very anxious time for them. Any form of Teacher Assessed Grade requires evidence of the progress that each student makes. It is important to point out that a teacher assessed grade will not be decided upon student's performance in mock examinations alone but based around a series of assessment points. Consequently, we will be looking to increase the frequency of assessments in subject areas, in order to ensure that the grades awarded to students in the summer accurately reflect the level of performance across the programme of study.

**Your child's performance in lessons (including remote learning) and any assessments that are completed between now and the summer will be pivotal in deciding the grade they are awarded.**

We will inform you of any further changes to the awarding of grades this academic year in due course.

Yours sincerely

P Shone  
Headteacher

