



## **Additional Information for Parents of students in Year 12**

### **September Exams**

As the Year 12 examinations were postponed due to school closure, students will sit these exams in September. This will give the opportunity for students and teachers to identify any areas of weakness and to plan to fill any gaps in knowledge throughout Year 13.

Students will sit one exam in each subject and exams will take place in the week commencing 14 September. Most students will be given study leave for the duration of the exams and will only be expected to attend school at the times that they have exams, though study facilities will be available in school if they wish to come in. A small number of students who struggle to work independently will not be granted study leave and will be expected to attend school as normal to allow their study to be supervised. We will contact those students during the week commencing 7 September to discuss study arrangements for them.

### **Progression and University Applications.**

Whether they are intending to apply to university, apprenticeships or employment, students should devote time over the summer to research and prepare applications for their next steps. For those applying to university, they should have their personal statement and UCAS form completed and ready for checking by Monday 14 September. From Monday 28 September, those students applying for courses with an October deadline will then be assigned to a checker who will support them in completing the application process and prepare a reference. You will know that our annual Progression Conference moved online this year. Students all have access to a range of resources, on Microsoft Teams, which can help inform and support their research and applications. I would like to make public my thanks to our excellent Careers team of Mrs Lawler and Mrs Quinn for their role in making this happen – their imagination and ambition has been second to none, and I know that the students have really appreciated the ongoing careers guidance and provision in spite of the lockdown.

### **UCAS predicted grades**

I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly explain the process by which we arrive at the predicted grades to be recorded on students' UCAS applications. As always, the predictions are anchored in students' year 12 academic performance, as reflected in both the upcoming September mock exam and the Spring Attainment Grade, and give an ambitious interpretation of their likely academic performance at the end of year 13. The criteria for arriving at predictions are set out below:

- Where a student's September mock exam grade is one grade below than their Spring Attainment Grade, we will predict the Spring Attainment Grade.
- Where a student's mock exam grade is equal to or higher than their Spring Attainment Grade, we will raise the Spring Attainment Grade, usually by one grade.



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- Where a student's mock exam grade is significantly below their Spring Attainment Grade, we will raise the Spring Attainment Grade, by one or more grades.
- For an A\* prediction, we will usually require the mock exam grade or Spring Attainment Grade to be an A\* and the other to be at least an A.

This was explained to all students during the Progression Conference and is covered in extensive detail in Mr Oxby's presentation to parents (below). Unfortunately, the postponement of the year 12 mock exams means that we cannot confirm predicted grades with the students until September. However, knowing their Spring Assessment Grades and their progress in lockdown should enable students to research their options with an approximate understanding of what their predicted grades are likely to be, and therefore which courses or progression options may be open to them.

Clearly, there are occasionally particular circumstances to be borne in mind, and myself, Mr Oxby and Miss Grimes carefully consider these on their own merits. However, in the vast majority of cases we believe that this evidence-based method is fair, consistent and in the best interest of all of our students. I would ask that parents respect the professional judgement of the Sixth Form Team and the teaching staff who provide the evidential basis for these predictions.

#### **Parents' information presentation**

In lieu of the cancelled parents' information evening, originally scheduled for 29 June, Mr Oxby has prepared a video presentation discussing in-school support and processes, and how parents can support students in researching and preparing their applications this summer.

[The presentation can be accessed here.](#)

I wish you a restful summer and look forward to working with you to support your children as they enter their final year at HGS

Mrs Helen Naylor  
Assistant Headteacher