

# HARINGTON SCHOOL

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5 January 2021  
JHR

Dear Parent/Guardian

I was hoping to be welcoming Year 13 back next week and start to get them ready for exams. They have worked so hard during their A level course and I have been impressed by their resilience and determination to do their best in what has been an unprecedented difficult time for them.

I am therefore frustrated by the inevitable anxiety caused by the Prime Minister's announcement that A level examination will not go ahead as normal. We don't yet know how A level grades will be determined, but I will communicate our approach as soon as we are informed of the government's intent. Please be assured we will do our utmost to ensure that the grades they are awarded are fair, positive and reflect what they are capable of.

In the email we received last night which confirmed the Prime Minister's announcement, the government stated, "In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly."

It is clear that an alternative to examinations is now likely to take place. This might be a similar process to the centre assessed grades that were issued last year. The grades awarded will need to reflect the work students have completed or, will complete going forward in order that they are fair and comparable across the country. My strong advice is that Year 13 must continue to engage with and work as hard as they have been in order that they receive grades that best reflect their ability and the effort they have already put into their studies.

We had originally intended for mock examinations to take place at the end of this term, inevitably these need to be delayed until students return, hopefully at the start of Term 4. We will make a final decision about mocks or other assessments once we know what the government's contingency plan is.

Please continue to encourage your child to discuss any concerns they might have with their teachers and form tutor. We will do what we can to help. I will write again when we have further information from the government.

Yours faithfully

John Harrison