

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



22nd April 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing to update you on the Teacher Assessed Grades process replacing formal examinations this year. All final information was provided to us by the examination boards on the 19th April 2021. As per previous correspondence the next 5 weeks will focus on allowing students the opportunity to submit evidence to demonstrate their full potential in all subjects. We have been tasked to create a portfolio of evidence for students to show the grades they are working at. The portfolios of work that we store will be available to exam boards who will be sampling work from different centres. This sampling process may lead to some adjustments in Teacher Assessed Grades. Finalised grades will be released to students on exam results days which are Tuesday 10th August 2021 for Year 13 students and Thursday 12th August for Year 11 students. Details about the appeals process will be sent to you in advance.

Alongside the evidence of working grades that exists from the last two years, students will also be given the opportunity to demonstrate further improvement in knowledge and skills acquisition and application in their class work up until the 28 May 2021.

Most assessments or tasks in class between the 19th April 2021- 28th May 2021 will be informal and we are requiring students to evidence progress in a variety of different skills in short answer questions. We will have a more formal assessment under exam style conditions in the Circle Room for each foundation subject and two for core subjects, to support us further with evidencing the students grades to the exam boards. These have been spaced out throughout the next 5 weeks and teachers will let the students know what they need to be revising for these adapted in class assessments.

Please see the attached schedule for the formal assessments that are taking place in the Circle Room. We will be asking students to leave bags in lockers for these assessments and mobile phones will not be allowed into the Circle Room, to protect the integrity of these assessments. From the 7th – 18th June 2021 we will be running one final exam board assessment in each subject to check that we have not under assessed any students – giving all students the final opportunity to show what they know, to ensure that no student is disadvantaged. The timetable for this final assessment will be released to students and parents/carers next week.

Throughout the process we will continue to tell students what grade they are achieving and how they can continue to improve. Staff will be unable to give a grade for any particular piece of work as we are assessing the skills as a collective of all work and not based on individual pieces. We will however be able to tell students what they would have got for that assessment in previous years. **Teachers are not permitted to tell students what the final Teacher Assessed Grades will be as they remain confidential until results day.**

We are confident this structure will support all students, in this unique situation, to achieve the best grades of which they are capable, despite the lack of examinations. The most important thing that students must do is to complete all tasks in class, for homework, in tests and assessments, to the best of their ability.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Gardner Head of Year 11
Gemma.gardner@theharefieldacademy.org

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Timmins', with a long, sweeping underline.

Helen Timmins
Deputy Headteacher

