

Dear Year 11 and Parent/Carers,

I know many of you will be worried about what will happen with GCSEs and unsure what you should be doing now. These are unprecedented times. The truth is that we do not know much more than you do and the situation has not changed significantly over the week end. However, what we are able to do is to use our professional experience to give you as much guidance as we can. I hope this will start to answer some of your questions.

How will exam grades be decided?

The government say they will take into account a mixture of teacher assessments and prior attainment. What this means in practice is not yet entirely clear. However it does mean that any work you have previously done you must keep in case it is needed as evidence. Also work you are now submitting needs to be of the highest standard you can manage using the notes and resources available to you as this will also provide evidence for us predicting the best grade for you that we professionally can.

What happens if I don't get the grades I am expecting?

The government are suggesting there will be a few possible routes once grades are announced:

- Schools or students will be able to appeal grades.
- Students may be given the opportunity to take exams in the Autumn
- Students can retake exams next Summer 21.

What should I be doing now? Can I stop working?

At the moment, you should not stop working and we are continuing to deliver google classroom lessons and tasks. I would suggest the following:

- Firstly, organise your work. Gather together any mock papers you have and all assessments that have been marked by teachers. I have asked teachers to do the same for any work they have of yours. These may act as evidence to support our predicted grades.
- If you are doing any subjects that require coursework, clearly you cannot complete work that has to be done in school. However, use your time to complete work that can be done at home e.g. portfolios. It may be that exam boards will ask us to collect these and submit marks, or at the very least, this will act as evidence should we need to appeal any results.
- For any subjects you are studying, no work will be wasted! You should to do work as set in the google classroom which will help in evidence to the exam boards. It can also support applications to your chosen colleges if there are any doubts about your readiness for your courses next year.

I will send regular updates as I find out more. At this time I have told all teaching staff that we are unable to comment on mock or predicted grades with students and parents. Until there is more clarity on how government wishes teachers to predict grades we will not be sending your calendared tracking report home. All enquiries should be directed to Miss Palmer (bpalmer@bohuntworthing.com).

I am pleased to be able to tell you our supplier is setting up an online ordering system for leaver's hoodies including local delivery and we will be in touch this week with more details. Also our prom venue has agreed to transfer our booking to an as yet unknown date in the future when we can celebrate your time at Bohunt.

The most important thing is that you all stay well. However, getting yourself into a routine will help with these unusual days. In addition, making sure you keep to the guidance about social distancing will help bring this period to an end as soon as possible. I can't believe that I am saying this – but use social media to keep in touch with your friends!

Best wishes

Mr Whitehead

