



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

Web: www.uvhs.uk E-mail: uvhs@uvhs.uk

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Hardwick B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs Susan Hewson B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H., Mrs Alessandra Desbottes M.A. (Oxon)

Our Ref: MHa/CPI

An exceptional school at the heart of the community

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear parents and year 11 pupils

As we approach the end of the summer term, I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for GCSE results this year. Please can I ask that you read this letter carefully and share the information with your son/daughter. Also, please refer back to it on results day as it will answer questions you may have. All this information will be on our website and from 20th August there will be a dedicated results section of the website which you will find useful as this will clarify information about post-results support.

GCSE results will be issued directly to pupils via UVHS email accounts on 20th August at 8am. Pupils DO NOT come into school to collect their exam results as in previous years. Pupils must ensure that they have successfully logged onto their school email account recently to ensure they can access these.

When the cancellation of the 2020 exams was announced, Ofqual asked school to submit Centre Assessed Grades and therefore the grading process this year has been like no other year. These have indeed been unprecedented times. However, at UVHS we know that our teachers know their students well and we are confident that there has been a high degree of accuracy in submitting grades. We initiated a rigorous and robust internal quality assurance process to ensure this process was accurate. The information below will help you to understand how we arrived at Centre Assessed Grades.

The process for awarding grades this summer has involved two key steps. For step one each school or college established and submitted a centre assessed grade and rank order for each student in each subject. During step two the exam boards have standardised grades using a statistical model developed with Ofqual. To ensure fairness and consistency all subjects at UVHS followed the same procedure to agree centre assessed grades and rank orders before submission.

- Subject leaders and teachers identified the evidence available for the performance of each student. Examples of this included classwork, homework, mock exams, end of topic tests and any non-exam assessment work.
- Teachers suggested a grade and rank order for each class and then departments met online to come to a shared view of the standard being applied and to rank order the entire cohort for that subject.
- An internal quality assurance was carried out to compare the grades between different subject areas and to previous cohorts of UVHS students.
- External moderation was then used to compare the grades to national performance data based on the prior attainment of our students and the previous performance of the subjects at UVHS.
- After our own internal and external standardisation was complete small adjustments were made, up or down, before the grades and rank orders were submitted to the exam boards.



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Please see the following links to Ofqual information which you may also find helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=fRTyGmUJlrw&feature=youtu.be>

<https://analytics.ofqual.gov.uk/#summer2020>

We hope the vast majority of pupils will be happy with their results but pupils who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn. If they choose to do this, they will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression. Ofqual have yet to release information on the costs of autumn examinations and whether candidates themselves will have to cover these costs. We will share further information as soon as this is announced. We have also been informed that there will not be an opportunity to take the BTec. Health and Social Care examination.

Whilst parents will wish to discuss the issue of taking examinations with their son or daughter, if a pupil does want to sit any examinations then they must return a signed copy of their examination results with the subjects they wish to take highlighted. This must be signed by the pupil, not a parent. This can be emailed directly to exams@uvhs.uk or handed into UVHS reception. If emailed to school, this must be sent from the pupils email account.

For further support regarding results, appointments can be made to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. To make an appointment please call school from 9am on Thursday 20th August. If you call outside of school hours you will be able to leave your details and you will then receive a call back to arrange an appointment. This process is to enable us to deploy to adequate social distancing requirements in line with government guidance.

If after reading the information on results for summer 2020, a pupil still has concerns about a grade they have been awarded they can ask UVHS to check whether an error was made when submitting the centre assessed grade. A pupil can also raise a complaint if they feel they have evidence of bias or that they have suffered from discrimination using school's normal complaints procedures or by contacting the relevant exam boards.

There will be a wealth of further support and guidance available throughout August. Young people or their parents can contact the National Careers Service on their helpline 0800 100 900 to speak to a qualified careers adviser and there will be on-going support on their website - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>. In addition, Inspira are offering 1-1 appointments and general guidance. www.inspira.org.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and discussing it with your child. We would like to wish you all well for the future weeks ahead and look forward to seeing year 11 once we are able to make plans to hold a fitting celebration to their time at UVHS.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hardwick
Headteacher

Mrs A Cooper
Assistant Headteacher: Intervention and Head of Upper School