

After a chaotic week we are pleased to announce that GCSE results will be available for students as planned on Thursday. GCSE results will be issued directly to pupils via UVHS email accounts on 20th August from 8am. Pupils DO NOT come into school to collect their exam results as in previous years.

Unfortunately there has been a delay to the results for Cambridge Nationals in Engineering and Creative iMedia. We will be releasing the centre assessed grades to students on Thursday, alongside their GCSE results, but official confirmation of the final grades is due later next week.

When the cancellation of the 2020 exams was announced, Ofqual asked each school to submit centre assessed grades and therefore the grading process this year has been like no other. The process for awarding grades has involved two key steps.

For step one each school submitted a centre assessed grade and rank order for each student in each subject. To ensure fairness and consistency all subjects at UVHS followed the same procedure. Teachers suggested a grade and rank order for each class and then departments came to a shared view of the standard being applied and a rank order for all the students for that subject. An internal check was carried out to compare the grades between different subject areas and between classes within each subject. Following national advice, the grades were then checked by an independent external agency to compare the grades to national performance data based on the prior attainment of our students and the previous performance of subjects at UVHS. Small adjustments were then made, up or down, before the centre assessed grades and rank orders were submitted to the exam boards.

During step two the exam boards calculated grades using a statistical model developed with Ofqual. The calculated grades have been compared to the centre assessed grades submitted by schools and students will be awarded whichever grade is higher. In most cases this appears to be the centre assessed grade and it is only the highest grade that will be issued to students this week.

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. 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 from the pupils email account or handed into UVHS reception.

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 adequate social distancing requirements in line with government guidance. If 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 .