



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



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Our Ref: MHa/CPI

An exceptional school at the heart of the community

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The Secretary of State for Education has made a statement today regarding examinations for Years 11 and 13. He has cancelled GCSE and A Level exams, saying that he will put his "trust in teachers rather than algorithms". Clearly this puts the assessment ball squarely back in the school's court to decide on GCSE and A Level outcomes for our students. No timescale has been suggested, but logic suggests that it would be similar to last year.

Consequently we will need as much evidence as possible upon which to base our grades. Therefore Year 11 and 13 students will continue to be taught for the remainder of the year and will be assessed by their teachers through ongoing assessment of work they do in lessons as well as formal internal exams. They should therefore take the opportunity to continue to work hard and demonstrate their level of achievement. We will send further details about plans to hold formal internal exams once we have information from the Government about plans for pupils to return to school.

There has been no mention of moderation, but our teachers will need to have a bank of evidence to support their decisions, which may or may not be required as evidence by exam boards.

Although the Cambridge National exams next week are going ahead, the Secretary of State made it clear that this is to allow post 16-students to achieve professional competency qualifications ready for specific employment. In our professional judgement, we feel that sitting these exams would have an adverse effect on our students, not only in terms of the risk presented by coming into school during the lockdown, but also in terms of reduced outcomes when compared to coursework alone. We appreciate that your children have worked very hard for these exams and will feel cheated, however that work will not be wasted as it can be used internally and the Government has stated that no child will be disadvantaged by not sitting these exams. Therefore we are withdrawing all Year 11 students from these exams. If you wish to discuss this further please contact Mrs A Cooper via email at aco@uvhs.uk who has an overview of exams in the school.

I feel that I am writing to you a lot at the moment as a reaction to daily changes from the Government. Let me assure you we are very measured in our thinking and will now work to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

Kind Regards

Matt Hardwick
Headteacher

