



19 January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Consultation on A level, GCSE and Applied General summer grade awarding:

Ofqual is the government department responsible for all Level 2 (GCSEs, etc.) and Level 3 (A levels, etc.) qualifications and grade awarding.

On Friday 15 January they launched **two consultations** (one for GCSE, AS and A Level grade awarding, and one for Vocational and Technical Qualification grade awarding), **which close on Friday 29 January at 23:45**.

In summary Ofqual and the DfE propose for **GCSE, AS and A Levels** that:

- students would continue with their education during this academic year
- students would be assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June
- teachers would submit grades to the exam boards by mid-June
- external Quality Assurance (QA) by the exam boards would be ongoing throughout June
- results would be issued to students once the QA process is complete, most likely in early July
- student appeals could be submitted immediately following the issue of results and would first be considered by schools and colleges

The proposed new alternative regulatory arrangements for VTQs (**BTECs and Criminology**) would:

- permit awarding organisations to develop an approach to awarding qualifications in scope of the Department's proposed policy on the basis of incomplete assessment evidence.
- for qualifications most similar to GCSEs, AS and A levels we would expect awarding organisations to use similar approaches to assessment and awarding.
- expect awarding organisations to be mindful of the burden their approach places on centres and learners, and to provide clear and timely advice and guidance
- require awarding organisations to issue certificates (where appropriate) as normal and to not refer on the certificate to a result having been determined under the alternative regulatory arrangements

More information and links to the consultation survey is available here: [How 2021 could look for students and learners – we want your views - The Ofqual blog](#)

Please keep up to date with announcements Ofqual make via their website. We will filter these announcements into updates as and when needed.

Asymptomatic Covid Testing:

Attendance onsite is currently by invitation only. In the next couple of days students who attend will be offered a weekly 'lateral flow' Covid test. More information will be sent directly to those students. Individuals must consent and participation is voluntary. No-one should come on site for the purposes of a test alone. Any individual showing symptoms should isolate at home. Following the local public health directive, we will not be offering serial testing to close contacts of positive cases; instead isolation will need to occur.

Wellbeing sessions for students:

Mindfulness sessions on Mondays (10.15 & 12.30) and Tuesdays (14.15) (run by Karen Reader & Lucy Aditi)

Mind & Movement session on Mondays (10.15) (run by Alison Goodier)

Relaxation sessions with Lindsay Hardman Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm

Any students interested in the above just need to email wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk to request a space.

I hope you all remain safe and well.

Best wishes,



William Baldwin
Principal