

Online Learning and Exam Update

As the Country moves to a new unexpected way of working, there will inevitably be some issues to overcome in the first few days and weeks. Yesterday, and again this morning, some of the online resources which we have relied upon have not been able to cope with the increase in demand. Please be assured they are working rapidly to increase capacity, so they will become more reliable over time. Our subject teams are aware of this and are being asked not to over rely on these resources so students will still have other tasks to complete. Hard copies of these resources are in the process of being posted out for those students who cannot access the internet at home.

If any students have forgotten their passwords or require them to be reset, please email passwordreset@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk

Yr11/Yr13 Update

Please find some key points that have been provided to us regarding this year's exams:

Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.

Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to us.

Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.

These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.

The Exam boards will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students are not disadvantaged.

Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.

There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

Following these points, Year 11 and 13 need to complete any coursework tasks they are able to do at home. This work may be used to help inform what grades are awarded. Students need to keep reviewing their prior learning until such times that the grades are decided and they are confident they will not be taking the option of sitting the exams in the new academic year. We appreciate there are still a lot of unanswered questions but we will endeavour to answer these for you as the situation becomes clearer.

In the longer term the school will be providing transitional work for those students who are staying on to do Level 3 courses.

Year 13 Students, an update from UCAS

Following the cancellation of examinations and assessments, the Government have asked all universities and colleges in England to stop making unconditional offers or amending existing offers to students for two weeks.

The Government wants to reassure students that you will get grades. It says “no student should feel pressured into making a quick decision which may end up not being in your best interest”.

It is important that you have all the information available to you when making decisions on your offers and understand how awarding of qualifications will work this summer.

To give you more time to make your decisions, we have decided to extend the May decision deadline (the date by when you need to make your firm and insurance choice) by two weeks. We will confirm your new decision deadline this week.

When you receive your results and universities and colleges make decisions, our Clearing service will still be available to you, as it is for tens of thousands of applicants each year.

Our team, although now working remotely, continue to be on hand to support you. You can find the latest information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) on ucas.com.

The 6th form team at the school will be happy to answer any individual enquiries regarding the UCAS process and help you with any future developments.