

Year 13 Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs)

Updated: Thursday 9th April 2020

These questions have been designed with you in mind. I am sure you will have a number of questions that you would have normally asked a teacher at school. So these are designed to support you and answer the many questions that you might have.

These will be updated regularly as we receive more information from Ofqual and exam boards.

Should I continue to revise?

Although the exam season has been cancelled this summer it may be possible to sit exams after this time; the Government will announce when this will be in due course. You should continue to consolidate your knowledge from the Level 3 courses. You will need to embed knowledge into your long term memory. Where possible, you should continue with your daily routines. Working a regular school day. Try to rest and maintain sleep patterns. I would also suggest at least one session of physical activity per day.

When will I know my grades?

Final grades will be allocated to students by Ofqual. They will collate all information from schools to moderate and standardise these grades. Current advice from the DfE and Ofqual is that grades are planned to be released on the original results days. However, it may be that these grades could be released slightly earlier. A letter with more detail is to be sent out soon.

How will school produce my predicted grades?

We have been asked to send the exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- 1) the grade they believe you were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned.
- 2) within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements. So for example:
if there are 50 students studying subject X and 15 students are awarded a grade C; staff will be asked to rank them 1-15 based on how secure that grade is for each student.

We have been asked to consider a range of evidence over a period of time. So for example this could include your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and assessments; any mock exams; any coursework you might have done and your general progress during your course as well as prior attainment at KS4. This will not just be based on your recent mock exam papers but a range of information that your teachers know about you.

What do I do about my University application?

The UCAS process is planned to proceed in the usual way. There has been a two week pause in activity from universities while decisions were being made by Ofqual and the DfE. Activity at UCAS will shortly begin again. Lots of universities have closed because of the lock down situation, although they may respond to e-mail. If you have specific questions for universities you should visit their website for further information. There have been some changes to the dates you need to make firm and insurance decisions. These changes are on the UCAS website. You should have received an e-mail regarding these changes.

Should you wish to look further at a university prior to accepting offers there are a number of virtual open days. Some universities offer a virtual tour of their campus and facilities.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/virtual-and-digital?keywords=>

On the UCAS website there is an FAQ page regarding COVID-19 and how it affects the process.

<https://www.ucas.com/search/frequently-asked-questions/coronavirus>

What should I do about student finance?

Student finance UK is still available for your applications. Currently, you cannot contact them by phone and they are not using their social media platform, but the website is fully functioning and it has everything you need to make your application. You do not need a final place confirmed to make the application. Student Finance UK are suggesting at this time there are no delays to the process and everything is planned to be ready for the university start date.

These pages will guide you through the process:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance>

<https://www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan>

Government website for Student finance where you create an account:

https://logon.slc.co.uk/cas/login?_locale=en_GB&service=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.student-finance.service.gov.uk%2Fcustomer%2Fhome%2Fpages

The Government website has Covid-19 guidance for Student finance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-prospective-students>

I was due to start an apprenticeship or employment, what should I do?

If you were planning to start an apprenticeship or employment after results day you should make contact with the company you were planning to start with. Please consider that these will be very difficult times for employers. Check the website of the company for any COVID-19 advice. Make contact with the person you had correspondence from when your position was confirmed. Plan what you are going to say and ask:

My name is xxxxxxxxxxxx, I had confirmation of employment/an apprenticeship starting on xxxxxxxx. Could you tell me if there have been any changes to this arrangement since the recent developments due to COVID-19? Is there anything further I need to do prior to my start date? I am due to get my grades on the publish A Level/Level 3 grades day 13th August, although it could be sooner, I am awaiting confirmation.

If you have a telephone conversation and manage to speak to someone at the company, ask them if they are able to follow it up with an e-mail confirming what you discussed.

Finally...

What else would you like to know? If you have any specific questions that might be useful for other students to know the answers too, then please email Mr Farrell and/or Mrs Wilkinson. We can email you back directly and then add the question to this document.

Take care all and stay safe.