



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

24 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well in these testing times. Naturally, given the disruption to the final months of your A Level & Level 3 Qualifications, combined with the cancellation of exams, I am sure many of you will have been anxious about how you will be awarded your qualifications this summer and the impact it may have on your next steps in September and beyond.

I am writing to you to confirm how we intend to manage this process and to give you some support and reminders that you should actively be pursuing over the next few weeks and months.

Awarding of grades outlined below:

- Your A Levels & Level 3 Qualifications are currently being assessed by your teachers and they will consider a number of factors – your classwork and home learning, your results in assignments and any mock exams, any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done and your general progress during your course. Based on the whole picture of your performance, they will submit an expected grade that you will have achieved if you sat all relevant exams or assessments; this is called the 'Centre Assessment Grade'. Teachers will also submit a 'Rank Order' grade; this is where you will be compared against the other students at Birchwood whom are following the same course as you. This information will allow exam boards, to standardise grades in order to reach a fair and appropriate grade for you.
- These will be submitted by the school and approved by the relevant exam boards.
- Your results will be available on Thursday 13 August from 9.00am in the school library.
- **Please be reassured that the grade you receive are of equal standard from those of previous years and you will not be at a disadvantage as you move forward on to your next steps and in the future.**

For further information around this please see sections on the school website: - 'Staying Connected' link & then follow information on the 'Examinations & Past Papers' section. You can also follow updates on www.gov.uk/ofqual

When you collect your results and hopefully feel proud of your achievements, we will also be there for any support and guidance around your Post-18 choices. Confirming all university places will be as normal, which is through 'track' on UCAS (please do this once you have received your results). Further guidance around this will be sent shortly.

In the meantime, there are some things to consider and move forward with. If you are intending to attend university from September then you should be actively checking UCAS track for updates on your application. With all the changes that have taken place, there have been a number of alterations. These have mainly been around 'unconditional offers' being sent to applicants and the reply to all offers now being extended to 18 June (18:00 UK time). If you are affected by any of this, then you will have been communicated to by UCAS. Please as soon as you can if you have not done so already; make your 'firm' and 'insurance' choice by track.

Cont/2

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

Registered office - Parsonage Lane • Bishop's Stortford • Hertfordshire • CM23 5BD

Telephone: 01279 655936

Email: admin@birchwood.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.birchwoodonline.co.uk

Follow us on...  

If you were intending to go down a different pathway such as an apprenticeship or straight in to work and that is now uncertain due to Covid-19, it is still not too late to apply. In the last two weeks, three students have reconsidered, their application has been processed and they are now awaiting offers from universities – so please get in touch if you want any support around this.

Information for securing student finance for university can all be found on the government website at www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance . Again if you need any support around this please get in contact and we will be happy to help. Alternatively, I have uploaded a PDF guide on the school website in the 'Sixth Form' Section under 'Advise and Support' then go into 'Careers' window and the title in the Downloads and links area is called 'Student Finance England 2020-21 Presentation.

As previously communicated with students going on to Higher Education, they should be preparing for their further undergraduate study, by looking closely at programmes of study on their chosen courses and accessing all learning materials available. This can also be supported by completing wider reading, online courses (MOOKs) that students have access to via Unifrog and webinars every Wednesday from 12:00noon by following the link below (for webinars you will need to register first in advance and follow guidelines). By keeping on top of your research, this will put you in a strong position for when you begin your next chapter of education.

<https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/webinar-wednesdays>,

Any student not going on to Further or Higher Education, should be actively looking to secure their next steps by applying for apprenticeships or jobs. Again, there are tools on Unifrog to help build CV's and help with this process. Mrs Crimes and Ros Padgett from 'Herts Learning', whom were working closely with students around this matter are still available for support, so please get in contact.

Moving away from qualifications and next steps, we still want to celebrate your time during Birchwood 6th Form. I have been in contact with the 6th Form Leadership Team and we want to open up the opportunity for you to create your 'Leavers Book' and purchase a Hoody. For access to the yearbook, you simply need to follow the link below, where you can upload photos and post comments in your profile section. Hoody information will come out shortly once we have costings for this item.

<http://ayb.me/birchwoodhighschool>

Invitation code: - repast2674.

I hope this letter has helped to reassure you in what is going on behind the scenes – your teachers have been most deeply upset about how your time was shortened in the 6th Form and we all appreciate the hard work and dedication that you have put in to your studies whilst at Birchwood.

I very much look forward to seeing you all again, once the government guidelines allow us to do so. Please stay safe and best wishes to you and your families.

Kind regards

Mr I Torrance

Head of Sixth Form

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

Registered office - Parsonage Lane • Bishop's Stortford • Hertfordshire • CM23 5BD

Telephone: 01279 655936 Email: admin@birchwood.herts.sch.uk Website: www.birchwoodonline.co.uk

Follow us on...  