

# Highlands College News

Parents' and Guardians' Newsletter, Spring Term

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## WELCOME

**Dreena Collins,**  
**Assistant Principal.**

At the time of writing, there are just seven recorded cases of COVID-19 on island, meaning that restrictions are lifting. This is a remarkable change from the picture at the end of last year, and we are proud of the behaviour of our students that has helped to minimise issues in College.

We have started to increase the amount of time that students spend on site, in response to parent and student feedback. We are also continuing to host **free Lateral Flow Testing for our FE students on a weekly basis**. We encourage all young people to take up this offer, to try to keep us all safe.

Ofqual, the UK exams regulator, has recently released the findings from their consultation on awarding exam grades, this year.
















Due to the possibility of safety issues with exams, and the ongoing disruption for many students, teachers will be able to use evidence about performance to assess students (**Centre Assessed Grades**). This evidence will include mock exams and class work. This applies to iGCSEs in Maths, English and Human Biology, plus some Vocational areas. Please see the chart that follows, or visit Ofqual's website.

Save The Date!  
6th Form Awards  
Ceremony  
24th June 2021

# How vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded in 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/

<b>Qualifications most similar to GCSEs and A levels</b> e.g. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Technicals  Taken only in schools or colleges  Do not assess occupational skills	<b>Qualifications not similar to GCSEs or A levels</b> e.g. Functional skills and ESOL Skills for Life  Taken in schools, colleges or other places  Do not assess occupational skills	<b>Qualifications with occupational skills or proficiency assessments</b> e.g. construction, plumbing and electrical qualifications  Taken in schools, colleges or other places  Assess occupational skills
<b>Your results</b>  Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement  Various sources of evidence used  Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels	<b>Your results</b>  Assessments should continue where possible  May be awarded using other evidence or judgements  Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed	<b>Your results</b>  Assessments can continue as normal where possible  Assessments may be delayed  Assessments can be adapted if needed

Visit [www.gov.uk/ofqual](https://www.gov.uk/ofqual) or search 'Ofqual 2021 qualification explainer tool' for specific details (coming soon)

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**University Applications:** If your son/daughter has applied for university starting in 2021, they should be receiving offers back from their universities through UCAS. Please make sure that they are responding to any correspondence that is being sent to them. If they don't, they may miss out on important deadlines that the university has put in place.

Applications for Student Finance must be completed by 31st March to ensure all funding arrangements are in place for the start of term in September: see Gov.Je for details.

If your son/daughter has applied for a further full-time course at Highlands for September 2021, they will be hearing from us at the end of March. If you have any questions about this process do not hesitate to contact [fulltimeapplications@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:fulltimeapplications@highlands.ac.uk)

Should your son or daughter wish to discuss their choices/decisions on their final offers, please do not hesitate to send them along to Careers and Employability to make an appointment or email [employability@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:employability@highlands.ac.uk).

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For more information about the Careers and Employability team and the support they offer, see our video.



# Student Support Services

## - A Reminder of What We Offer



As well as the guidance provided by the Careers and Employability team (above) the College also has a range of other support available for students.

### Learning Support

Students have access to a team of specialist staff with knowledge in communication/visual support, learning disabilities and difficulties, and the Autism Spectrum.

We have different models of support to enable students to be as independent as possible; in the classroom, in a small group or a 1-1 outside of class, and online via Microsoft Teams. We also offer open access study skills support sessions in our Learning Resources Centre and online for students that don't need or want to commit to a regular support service.

We work with learners closely to ensure we are providing them with a support package that works best for them.

Contact the Head of Learning Support for more information: [desiree.madelin@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:desiree.madelin@highlands.ac.uk)

### Maths and English

Did you know that all our Further Education students at Highlands continue to study maths and English until they achieve a 4 at GCSE (or equivalent)?

Studies show that the achievement of these skills enhances life chances and income over a lifetime – up to £100,000!

Students are taught by a dedicated team of specialist teachers as part of their timetable, usually through a mix of online and classroom-based lessons. All students are expected to attend unless they have already achieved these qualifications – please help us to help your son or daughter by talking to them regularly about these important core skills.

Contact the Head of Maths and English for more information: [carol.tyrer@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:carol.tyrer@highlands.ac.uk)

### Student Life

The Student Life Team deals with emotional health and wellbeing, including safeguarding and financial hardship. They can offer support such as counselling, or key worker support for wellbeing. They also coordinate enrichment events and take student feedback - 'Learner Voice' - so that we can listen to the students about matters that are important to them. Referrals to Student Life can be made via Personal Tutors or directly, by the student. The team is located at the back of the Student Lounge in the cafe, or can be contacted on: [Studentlife@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:Studentlife@highlands.ac.uk)

### Kooth



Kooth is an App that hosts a Mental Health & Wellbeing Community for Young People.

This is a free, safe and anonymous online community where students can seek support and advice.

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



# Working With You



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## The LPPA

The College is working towards the LPPA - **Leading Parent Partnership Award** - and we are striving to continue to improve our interactions with you. We also hope to be able to offer more support to those parents and guardians who need it. One way in which this was done this recently, was by producing a film on how to support students with Maths and English - and even improve your own skills, if you wish. All of our videos are available on our YouTube channel.

Please also note that each department has a dedicated administrator who can be contacted via our Information Centre. If you have any general queries: for example regarding absence, change of details, references, fees, course information, please contact our reception on 608608 or email [info@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:info@highlands.ac.uk) and your query will be passed onto the appropriate administrator.

Shortly, we will be sending you information about our annual **parents'/ carers' survey**. We value your input and feedback.

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What would you like to see in future newsletters?

Perhaps you would like to contribute an article yourself?

If you have any thoughts, please email [info@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:info@highlands.ac.uk), and mark the subject 'newsletter suggestions'.

## Hair and Beauty Showcase



This year's **Hair and Beauty Academy's showcase** is unveiled on 15th March, at Voisin's Department store, and we can't wait! Here are some stunning behind-the-scenes photographs, showing the fabulous talents of our day Release hairdressers.

