

17 July 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

As you will hopefully be aware there have been a number of recent announcements regarding the next steps following the cancellation of all exams this summer and the process for appeals and resitting subjects. These announcements relate only to GCSE subjects and we are still waiting for more detail on BTEC subjects. A useful summary of the changes can be found [here](#).

I also need to remind you that staff are not allowed to discuss the grades given or rank order of any students. OFQUAL have made this very clear in their guidance that, 'any inappropriate disclosure of centre assessment grades and rank order information will be investigated by exam boards as potential malpractice.'

Appeals

It has now become clear that there will be no appeal against the grades awarded this summer by exam boards. The only grounds for appeal will be if a school submitted the incorrect grade or the exam board applied the wrong grade. Students can not appeal against the original centre assessed grade or their position in the rank order. It would be possible to appeal if you believe a student was discriminated against. If following the exam results you are considering an appeal you will need to discuss this first with the school. There are no details available yet on the fees for appeals.

Exams in November

OFQUAL have announced that there will be exams available in all subjects. These exams will be in the same format as May and June. There will be no changes to the number of question papers or material tested. These exams are planned to take place between Monday 2 November & Monday 23 November. Exact dates for individual exams are not yet available.

There is still a worrying lack of detail available on key areas. At the moment, we are not able to confirm where the exams will take place. Obviously, if a decision is made that these will be held in schools this will present an additional burden at a time when we are likely to still be in some form of socially distanced schooling. Also it is not clear who will pay for these exams and how they will be invigilated. The majority of our invigilators are in higher risk categories.

I would strongly advise students to think carefully about taking any exams in November other than English or Mathematics, where they achieved below a Grade 4. Students will already have started courses at college and this will provide an additional burden at a time when they may well have not completed any formal learning in GCSE subjects since March. GCSE Maths and English are key qualifications that are needed for most careers and further academic study. Students who receive



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a Grade 3 or below in either English or Mathematics will still be required to work towards a Grade 4 and retake these exams. Currently it has been proposed that exams in these subjects will be held in colleges.

Our ability to support students with exams in November may be very limited due to the operational requirements in place from September. We will engage in a conversation with student's about this when more clarity exists about student numbers taking exams and we know more about the requirements of running the school in its new mode. The deadline for exam entries is **Wednesday 16 September**. There will be no late entries available for this exam series.

Results Day Thursday 20 August

We were looking forward to celebrating the GCSE results with all our Year 11 students this summer. If social distancing is still in operation in August we will need to operate a different model than in previous years. [Please find details here](#).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Reid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr M Reid
Deputy Headteacher