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18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well in what is a particularly tough experience for you all. Not only have Year 11 students had to suddenly leave our school much earlier than expected, but they have had to cope with the fact that exams have been cancelled this summer at short notice. I want to emphasise to you all that we are still here for you. You remain very much part of our school community and we are always here for information, advice and guidance.

Awarding of Grades for GCSE (and other) Qualifications

Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) has released detailed instructions on how GCSE grades are going to be awarded this summer. I would like to summarise and clarify the details of this letter to ensure everyone understands the process fully.

Perhaps most importantly, we have been asked by the Department for Education to provide the grade we believe most likely to be awarded if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. We will consider a range of factors: classwork and homework; results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework that might have been done and general progress during the course. This will allow the DfE and exam boards to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not either unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more, or less, generous than others.

This does mean, however, that the final grade could be different from the one that we send to the exam board as they will be subject to adjustments according to the results of other students across the country, just as exam efforts would have been.

The DfE have reinforced that no students across the country will be able to see the grades that their school submits. This information will be confidential. Please do not ask teachers, or anyone else at our school, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards - they will not be allowed to share this with you and it is not appropriate for this to happen under any circumstances.

Results Day

GCSE results day will be on Thursday 20th August, however, given the current restrictions, we cannot yet confirm if you will be able to come into school to collect results. I will be in contact closer to this date to confirm the final arrangements.

Home Learning

Even though your child will not be sitting GCSE exams this summer, it is important that we support them to get ready for Sixth Form or College for when they start in September 2020. We will continue to provide Year 11 Home Learning resources until 30th June 2020, which is the official date that they are taken off roll. The next Home Learning pack will be sent home during half term (w/b 25th May 2020).

Progression beyond Year 11 / Careers Support

Emma Lees is working with college and apprenticeship providers to support all year 11 students into a September 2020 placement. Follow the school careers Instagram account for careers updates, information & advice: [@empower4ngh](#). Emma is contacting all year 11 students to discuss plans and support transition. If your Year 11 child does not have their post 16 provision sorted, or you have any questions about post 16, then please contact Emma on her school mobile number via text 07764355536 or by email emma@empowergs.co.uk.

Free School Meals Voucher Scheme

We have recently signed up to the National Free School Meals Voucher Scheme and those that provided an email address will have received access to these vouchers during the w/b 11th May 2020. If you have not yet provided an email address, please email school with your details admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk and we will arrange for you to benefit from this scheme too.

Maintaining Contact

At least every fortnight you should receive a telephone call to check on your child's wellbeing. Please do your best to take this call. It provides an important source of feedback and allows us to address problems as they emerge. If you have a concern about the well-being or safety of your child, please contact main reception during school hours on 0161 4138546, or alternatively email admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk.

You, and your child, remain very much part of our school community and we are always here for information, advice and guidance.

Warm regards,

Mrs K Jones
Head of School