Tuesday, 07 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 11 Destinations & Sixth Form**

Following the information provided by the Government on Friday 3rd April, I am writing to you to set out how we will be supporting all our students to make the right next steps in their education, wherever they aspire to be next year and beyond.

**Centre Assessed Grades**

The examinations regulating body OfQUAL have now clearly outlined the process for schools to follow in awarding grades for students. These are called Centre Assessed Grades and have the same value and kudos as official GCSE grades. I enclose a copy of the official letter sent to all parents by OfQUAL outlining the key messages.

Teachers will now start the process of culminating all the necessary evidence, in order to produce the grade that we feel that students would have attained if the planned teaching and learning and public examinations had continued to take place. In so doing, teachers will consider a full range of evidence, including classwork, homework and any previous assessed work or performances during the course of study, along with their professional judgement to ensure that the final grade submitted to the examination boards is as fair and objective as possible. If your child would have normally had agreed access arrangements during public exams, such as extra time or a scribe, please rest assured that this will be factored into this decision-making process. These grades will then be standardised by exam boards to ensure that no student is affected by the inconsistencies in following the grading process.

I know some of you may want to bring in completed NEA work to school for your teachers to take into account when deciding your grade. Given the official Public Health England guidelines, this may prove to be challenging during these times and we are currently looking into different ways we can achieve this.

As you will see from the official letter, we cannot release any provisional grades to you at any stage during this process, so can I please urge you not to contact the school to request these grades. The Government plan to issue these grades sometime in late July or Early August, a little earlier than in previous years. If at the point of receiving your grades, you feel that they do not reflect your child’s true ability, you may appeal the process and will have the opportunity to take an exam in the Autumn term. Dates for this examination series have not yet been released. In such cases, please note both the Centre Assessed Grade and examination grade will stand.

We appreciate that this is an anxious time for many, but please be assured that we will endeavour to carry out the process for deciding Centre Assessed Grades in a robust manner and seek to award the grades that we feel you all deserve, to get you to your next stage in your journey.

**Destinations**

In order to support all our students and ensure that nobody is left without a plan for where they will continue their education, we will be sending out a personalised pathways form for each student by email within the next week. This email will ask for confirmation of your intended destinations for next academic

year and will help us to tailor our support to you. Please respond as promptly as you can to this email, either confirming your plans have not changed or providing updated information.

* For students applying to college, we will contact colleges to ensure places have been confirmed and offered, and where these are subject to entry requirements, we will work with you to make sure students have alternative options.
* For students looking to start an apprenticeship, we will work with you to either find and secure an apprenticeship or to find an alternative route which will continue to support your education.

**Sixth Form Admittance**

For students continuing to Waseley Hills Sixth Form, we have revised our entry process to try to provide greater **certainty** and **opportunity**. We want students with a proven track record to know for certain that they can return to continue in September, and those who have been deprived the opportunity to show their development through the exams to have the opportunity to show that they are capable of thriving at Sixth Form over the next few months.

* All students who achieved the automatic entry requirements for Sixth Form and their chosen courses in their Mock Examinations last December will be accepted to Waseley Hills Sixth Form, regardless of the outcome of their final calculated grades.
* Preparation work will be set for all A-level subjects, to be completed before the start of the course, to give all students the best start to Year 12.
* All other students who want to attend Waseley Hills Sixth Form but didn’t meet the entry automatic requirements will be guaranteed an interview to determine if a place will be offered, as soon as it is safe to do so. We will look at the preparation work you have completed, and if Waseley Hills is not the right place to continue your education, we will work alongside other colleges to find a suitable alternative course.
* Any students who did not achieve the entry requirements will also be automatically accepted should they achieve the required grades when the calculated grades are published this summer.

We will not, as some colleges have done, open the doors to every student regardless of achievement. This is because A-levels are not an appropriate course of study for every student. We will, however, ensure that every student who wishes to come to our Sixth Form gains a place either with us, or at another excellent post-16 provider in the local area.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher