

24 March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Year 11 Update

I wanted to write to you with an update regarding Year 11. As you are all aware the government made the decision last week to cancel public examinations. I held an assembly on Thursday to explain this decision to the students and try to provide them with as much clarity and reassurance as possible. A further update from the Department for Education (DfE) was sent on Friday 20 March, which explained that students will receive a grade for each subject from a range of evidence including teacher judgement.

The exact wording from the DfE is as follows:

“GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in”

The latest guidance can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

Doing the best for our Year 11 students is our priority and I would like to reassure you all that you have our full support regarding post-16 destinations, whether that be college applications or other. To this end, Mr Berry (Careers Leader) has been in liaison with the local authority to ensure all our students are able to progress to their post-16 career pathway. Again, I will update you on this when more information arrives. In the meantime, please encourage your child to continue learning through the online resources provided, in particular I would encourage this in subjects they will continue with at college.

Whilst Friday was indeed an emotional day, I was humbled once again by the commitment of the staff at Oasis MediaCityUK who worked tirelessly to prepare a leaving ‘party’ and usual last-day activities for Year 11, and we were glad that they were able to say farewell to their secondary school years in some capacity. We will also look to organise a Prom and certificate evening once a sense of



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normality returns and, again, I will write to update you of our plans nearer the time.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to thank yourselves; last week my colleagues and I were deeply moved and impressed by the student's reaction to this news and their dignity and understanding. As parents and carers, you should feel very proud of the adults that your children are becoming and I would like to thank you personally for your support of the academy during your child's time with us.

I will write again to you when I have more information to share.

With grateful thanks and very best wishes,

Marie Dillon
Principal



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