19 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you are all well and have managed some quality family time together this summer. These have been indeed been extremely anxious and uncertain times for your daughter’s generation, especially with the news coverage following the ‘A’ level results announcement last week.

As you can imagine, we have been following the developments regarding this summer’s ‘A’ level and GCSE results very closely over the past few days. We were extremely relieved to have confirmation late Monday that the school Centre Assessed Grade would be the one grade issued, rather than one calculated by an algorithm which could result in a drop in the grade reached by teachers following a thorough moderation process. In some cases, there may even have been an increase. However, the news coverage has focused on those ‘A’ level students who have been extremely disappointed.

So, early tomorrow at 8 a.m., your daughter will be emailed one grade for each subject which will represent the higher grade of the two grades i.e. either the school moderated grade or the one produced by the Examination Board.

The earlier issuing of the grades will enable your daughter to approach her sixth form provision directly in order to secure her place as we anticipate there may well be increased popularity for places on certain courses.

If your daughter wants individual guidance and support on receipt of her grades, then she is encouraged to come into school to have a personal interview with a member of the Leadership Team tomorrow. Her form will have been allocated a time to ensure that all students are socially distanced. She must not attend if she, or anyone in your family, has a high temperature or continuous cough, or has lost the sense of taste or smell. She will be asked to wash her hands immediately on entry and keep a distance of 2 metres from all others, with absolutely no physical contact with peers or teachers. As you will gather, this will be a very different results today to any we have had previously.

Please see the message below which has been sent today to your daughter from the Leadership Team:

Dear Year 11 Students,

We wanted to write to you today to reassure and update you regarding GCSE results tomorrow. Without doubt your generation have had the most difficult and challenging time during the pandemic and our thoughts have been with you constantly.

There have been a number of important announcements from Ofqal (the regulatory body for examinations and assessment) and Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) over the past few days that will now have a direct impact on the results that you will receive tomorrow. We have ourselves been relieved that these changes have been made and this will hopefully ease your anxiety.

**Centre Assessed Grades**

We now know that you will be awarded the higher of two grades: Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) or the Exam Board moderated grade. It is important for you to understand that the Teacher Assessed grade is not the same as the Centre Assessed Grade. The teacher assessed grades were subject to internal school moderation to ensure consistency between different classes within the same subject and in line with previous years’ results.

It is important therefore that if you have any concerns regarding the GCSE Grades that are issued tomorrow, that these are raised with a member of the Leadership Team and not with your class teacher. Below is an allocated time for you to attend school if you need advice, support or want to raise any concerns with the grade that you have been awarded in each subject. A member of the Leadership Team will be available to meet with you to discuss your options and make a note of any concerns that you may have for us to further investigate. We recognise that many of you will be focussed on the enrolment process for college once you have received your results and so may not feel the need to come into school to meet with us: ***the*** ***appointment slots are optional.***

***You will receive your GCSE examination results by e-mail at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday 20th August.*** You will also be able to collect a paper copy of your results which will be a formal “Statement of Results”, if you come into your appointment. Any Statements of Results not collected from school will be posted to your home address. Colleges will need to see the formal “Statement of Results” prior to starting your courses, but you should be able to use the e-mail of results to secure your college place.

**Appointment time: xxxx**

***If you are self-isolating and would like support and guidance from a member of the Leadership Team , please e-mail back to this address and we will contact you during the day on Thursday.***

Please respect the safety of yourselves, other students and staff by attending only at the allocated time, maintaining social distance while on-site and not gathering outside school in groups.

Kind regards

***The Leadership Team***

Finally, please note that school is still closed aside from the personal interviews with Year 11 students tomorrow.

If you do need to contact the school for any reason, please e-mail us on info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk and a member of the school staff will be alerted when the office re-opens.

With all best wishes,

Meryl Davies
Headteacher