


All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you to update you on the current situation for Year 11 pupils with regard to the awarding of this year's GCSE grades, and to give you some general advice on Year 11 studies for the remainder of this academic year. In addition, I would like to set out the revised programme for the end of year celebrations for our Year 11 pupils which has been so negatively affected by the measures we have had to take to support the fight against coronavirus.

We have now received clearer instructions from the Department for Education on the method which will be used to calculate and then award grades to this year's Year 11 GCSE candidates. An attachment to this letter provides you with all of the information both you and your child will need to know, to both understand the method of calculation and the timescales within which the process will take place. The first step for school will be to submit estimated grades by the end of May. I must point out that it is not permitted for parents or pupils to contact individual members of staff to discuss the awarding of estimated grades. Members of staff have been instructed not to engage in conversations about the estimations they are asked to make for individual candidate's grades. The quote below is taken directly from the Gov.uk website.

“Schools and colleges have been told that they must not share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued. This is to protect the integrity of centres' judgements, and to avoid anyone feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence”.

Please study the accompanying document about the process for awarding GCSEs and if you need further clarification contact me personally and not Heads of Department, class teachers or senior members of staff.

Alongside this letter specifically written for pupils in Year 11 and their parents, you will receive a further letter in which I include helpful advice and guidance which has been provided by the Local Authority for pupils studying at home. Additionally, there are some recommended links for information on mental health and well-being which I would encourage you to access in order to help to support your child through these challenging times. There is also a specific section aimed at Year 11 pupils who now clearly will not sit examinations in the summer term. Notably, the local colleges are providing essential reading lists and 'bridging' units of work to prepare pupils for the next steps in their education or training. Furthermore, it is important to note that pupils will have the option to sit GCSE papers in the autumn term should they be unhappy with the grade awarded during the process of estimating grades. For those pupils it will be necessary to refer to the detailed revision work which has been provided by our own teaching staff.



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I would now like to turn my attention to more celebratory matters. When the school was preparing to enter this current period of partial closure, it was very difficult for us to imagine that our current Year 11 cohort would leave without the school being able to put on events to mark the end of its time with us. At that point, it was not appropriate to allow the pupils to have leaving events as there was so much uncertainty and it was clear that we were about to enter a period in which we would all begin to witness horrendous loss of life.

Life will return to normal at some stage and with this in mind we have begun to make tentative plans for two special leaving events for the Year 11 pupils. The Year 11 Prom has been booked for Thursday September 17th at Barton Grange and this will follow a Mass in school the day before, which will take place at 4.30 pm. This year we had already planned to implement a change to the Leaving Mass at All Hallows, by allowing parents and grandparents to attend to create an opportunity for the wider community to come together in celebration of the pupils' five years spent at school. Hopefully, social distancing may be a thing of the past by then and it will be a poignant Mass which we will all be able to enjoy together.

I am conscious that for all of us the days are beginning to merge together, with weekdays and weekends almost indistinguishable. Nevertheless, I wish you all a happy, safe and Holy Easter period. School will be closed for the Easter weekend but will open then each day of the break for the pupils of key workers.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher