



25th March 2020

Dear parent / carer

There continues to be questions regarding year 11 GCSE results. A reminder on the position we currently face:

1. There will be no exams in the summer of 2020
2. Teachers will allocate a predicted grade based upon a **combination** of previous tests, mocks, completed coursework / fieldwork (where appropriate)
3. Prior attainment (KS2 SATs) will also be considered by both the school and exam boards, as this is a fairly accurate reflection of student's level

Myth busting / questions answers:

1. *Will my son / daughter's mock grade be the grade they get in the summer?*

Answer: No. We know from previous year groups how students make significant progress from second mocks to their final exams. We will factor in this expected progress when making our judgement.

2. *How much 'weighting' will teachers give to the mock results?*

Answer: The mock results scores are the most accurate reflection of a student's performance so far in their GCSE studies. As a school, we are particularly good at tracking students, having followed similar processes over the last 4 years. We will factor in expected progress from this point based upon the individual student and the subject.

3. *Will my son / daughter definitely get the grade which teachers predict?*

Answer: No. It is likely exam boards will ultimately make a judgement with regards to the probability that the grade allocated could have been achieved by that student. More than likely, this will be as a comparison against KS2 SATs. (e.g. if a student was allocated a grade 9 for maths, but came into the school with a very low score from primary, this would be challenged and may be lowered)

4. *What if I disagree with the final grade which has been allocated?*

Answer: Students will not be made aware of their final grade until summer results are published. If you think about it, no student has ever known their GCSE results until this day, so this is nothing different. If the grades awarded are not what was expected, students can appeal to the **exam boards**. (this process is still being finalised)

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5. *My son / daughter has improved significantly since primary school and therefore their SATs scores don't reflect their correct level. What will you do?*

Answer: I know this is the case for some students and would like to be very clear about this. **WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE!** We will be entering GCSE predicted scores based upon their current level.

6. *Will I be able to discuss the grade that teacher allocate my son / daughter?*

Answer: No. Please consider that you wouldn't be able to 'have a say' in their final exam result if they were sitting formal exams. You must trust the professionalism of the school, staff and everyone concerned with this Year 11. **Please remember that we all want your children to do very well. Don't lose sight of this.**

7. *Will I be able to see my son / daughter's mock scores?*

Answer: Yes. The original date for mock scores to have been distributed by staff was at the parents' evening on the 22nd April. We will post out these scores nearer to that date.

8. *When will I get my year 11 hoodie?*

Answer: You will get them. Currently, the distributor has shut down as this is classed as non-essential. As soon as we have any further update, we will let you know.

I know many parents and students are worried about their GCSE results due to the unprecedented circumstances we currently face. You must trust us to do our job and to repeat, trust that we all want your children to do very well. As ever, I will continue to update the website with any further developments. The school will be reducing staffing even further in the coming days and as a result, the phone will only be answered for a very short time period. The best method of communication remains info@woodham.org.uk, as office staff are working from home.

Stay safe,



Andrew Bell
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