



Perschore High School

Quality education
for all in a
challenging,
supportive and
safe environment



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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family had a good VE day Bank holiday weekend and were able to take some advantage of the good weather over the majority of the weekend.

Please find below the latest updates relevant to our current lockdown situation.

Examination grading

The main update to report from the last week is the very positive news that our Year 10 English Literature students will receive a centre-assessed grade in line with students who would have taken external examinations in the older year groups.

Ofqual received 12,500 plus responses to their consultation from teachers, teacher representative groups and unions, university or higher education institutions, parents, carers and students; within the wide ranging consultation, confirming a decision on calculating grades for students in Years 10 and below was identified as a priority and we are delighted the outcome meets our request.

Ofqual's statement noted:

'In line with our consultation proposal, we have decided that students entered for exams in year 10 and below will be eligible to receive calculated grades this summer. This follows the majority of responses received, which indicate that the progression of some students would be disrupted if they were not awarded a grade this summer, and to exclude them would have an unfair impact. Amongst the responses we received were concerns about the potential impact of excluding early entrants on disabled students or those with special educational needs, who might wish to spread their GCSE exams over different years.'

Since the announcement, my colleagues have been working hard to determine the appropriate grades in line with the guidance provided. When school returns, our current Year 10 students will be able to focus solely on their English Language GCSE as had always been our intention, without the inevitable disruption that would have been caused by preparing for an additional and unplanned English Literature examination during Year 11.

The full Ofqual statement can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-initial-decisions-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

SEND Support and Guidance

Annual Reviews of EHCPs

Current guidance advises that annual reviews are still expected to be held where this is possible, and as a school we will continue with annual reviews where manageable including using an alternative delivery model, such as video or telephone conference calls. Parents/carers of students with an upcoming annual review will be sent correspondence with further guidance regarding this amended annual review process.

Student learning

As per the Prime Minister's address to the nation last night, our priority at school remains focusing on the quality of our current remote learning and pastoral support provision for all students. Whilst Mr Johnson indicated there might be a phased return to school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 students from Monday 1st June, the only reference to our setting was that it was the Government's 'ambition' to give secondary age students doing exams next year at least 'some time with their teachers' before the summer holidays.

I shall obviously monitor further detail in this regard in the coming weeks and inform you accordingly if a phased return to school becomes a realistic possibility for the students identified. A full-time return to school for most students before September seems unlikely at the present time given the identified Covid Alert Level and Government statements, so it remains very important that all students are encouraged to engage at an appropriate level with the work being set and lessons being offered by my colleagues.

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Phil Hanson
Headteacher