

Winterhill School

Winterhill School – Founder of Leaders in Learning Multi Academy Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to begin by saying how immensely proud we are of our Year 11 students. Not just the hard work and dedication they displayed when preparing for their exams, but also the resilience and responsibility they have shown under such difficult and challenging circumstances as these. Not surprisingly, the government have announced that the lockdown we are all experiencing will continue for at least another three weeks. Following this announcement, I felt it important to update you on the support we continue to offer to families during this unprecedented time and some important updates regarding the awarding of 2020 qualifications.

As you will know, we have remained open to a small group of students whose parents are critical key workers, and in these demanding times, we are extremely grateful for the services and care all critical key workers are providing in the fight of COVID-19, including our own staff who continue to support our young people in school. Indeed, we were looking forward to seeing Y11 finish their time at Winterhill, and although this is not the end to Y11 we had all hoped for, we continue to have your child's best interests at the forefront of the work we are doing. Moreover, we will continue to – in whatever circumstances we are in – ensure a continuity and consistency in education for your child beyond Winterhill.

Ofqual Announcement Regarding the Awarding of 2020 Qualifications

On our final day in school, I spoke to Year 11 to express my gratitude for their maturity in processing the decision to cancel all exams, and to also offer our support to them as they navigated through this difficult time. Since then, Ofqual have now issued further guidance on how students' grades will be awarded; they have asked each school to submit fair predicted grades for each student in each course and also to rank order, from highest to lowest, the performance of all students within each subject. Please see further details of this process attached to this letter. **Please be aware that we are not allowed to release these grades in advance of results day.** However, please be assured that the process has been designed to be fair to everyone involved, and the aim is to ensure that all students are not disadvantaged by the current circumstances.

Of course, as I have said previously, we are committed to supporting your child in preparing for life after Winterhill and ensuring continuity in their education. Therefore, we are working closely with further education providers on preparing for the next stage in your child's education. For specific A-Level study support, students can access free study guides for a range of post-16 subjects via

www.successatschool.org. For those students currently without post-16 plans, applications can still be submitted to colleges and training providers. The National Apprentice website is also still promoting apprenticeship vacancies; please refer to the Winterhill careers page on our website for further details. Likewise, if you would like any specific guidance or support regarding post-16 study or careers, please email our careers advisor careers@winterhill.org.uk.

Finally, when I spoke to Y11 prior to school closure, I made it clear that we would endeavour to still celebrate their time at Winterhill. Providing we are able to do so, we do still intend to hold a prom and leaver's assembly to celebrate their time at Winterhill later in the year.

We are very proud of the strong partnerships between our school and the wider community, and at difficult times like these, this really comes to the fore. Therefore, I would also like to thank you all for your support and assistance in what has been a challenging time for us all. Take care and stay safe.

yours faithfully

Mr S Rhodes
Headteacher



Summer 2020: Examination Grades

How will my exam grades be awarded this summer?



Your teachers will give the examination board a centre assessed grade that will remain private. This will be based on a number of aspects, including; homework, classwork and coursework and will be the grade that it is believed you would have achieved in the summer. You will not be asked to complete any more assessments or coursework to help with this.



Your teachers will rank students to work out who is most likely to achieve a particular grade. This information will remain private.



The final grade will be decided by the examination board. They will use the information provided by your teachers, how well the school performed over the last couple of years and how you did in your last exams (SATs or GCSEs) to award you a grade.

What happens then?



Your results will be released, Thursday 20th August 2020. We will update you on the arrangements for collecting results when we have more information.



The results will be used and treated in the exact same way as if you had sat the examinations. You will use them to progress onto sixth form, college or university.



If you are not happy with your results, you may have two options:



Sit exams for real in the autumn

Confirmation of these options will be released later. For more information on this process, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q> for official guidance from Ofqual.