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15 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. Further to my letter of 5th July I am now in a position to share more details on our plans for the current Year 11 student results and the support that will be available.

Summer 2020 Year 11 Results

Due to the unique circumstances we are in this summer, results will be emailed directly to students' school email accounts at 8.00 am on Thursday 20th August (any student who has forgotten their password should email ictadmin@stmacademy.org.uk with their name and a contact number and a member of the team will call with a new password). Unlike previous years where results could be released from 6.00 am, Ofqual have informed all schools that this year the earliest time is 8.00 am.

Supporting Students

We hope that the vast majority of students will be awarded the results needed for them to progress to their planned next destination. However we know that, every year some students do not get the required grades and need extra help and support in making decisions about September; understandably this year these students will be our priority.

On Thursday 20th August between 8.00 am and 12.00 pm any student whose results do not allow them to progress to their planned destination should come into school for support. For example, a student may not have been awarded the results needed for an apprenticeship or for the A Levels that they wanted to study in Sixth Form. Sixth Form, other pastoral and senior staff, and a Connexions advisor will be available for advice and guidance.

On Friday 21st August between 9.00 am and 2.30 pm other students who need any non-urgent support or advice about destinations and/or are intending to return to Sixth Form should come into school. This includes students who have been awarded the results they need but who wish to discuss a change to the subjects they had chosen for Sixth Form and those who need to confirm their original choices.

To minimise the numbers of students in school at any one time and to avoid long waiting times, students should come into school at the following times:

9.00 am to 10.15 am 11T and 11H
10.15 am to 11.30 am 11O and 11M
11.30 am to 12.40pm 11C and 11A
12.40 pm to 2.00pm 11S and 11R
2.00 pm to 2.30 pm 11E

We understand that the Government will be confirming that, for results days, schools must continue to follow the guidelines that are currently in place rather than the new guidelines from September. Students who need to come into school on either of these days should come to the main entrance and will be directed to an available member of staff. If no members of staff are immediately available they will be asked to wait, socially distanced until someone is available.

Under the current guidelines parents are not allowed in school without an appointment. We therefore discourage parents from coming to school but realise that some students will need their parents' support on results day. If that is the case please inform the member of staff at the main entrance and we will do our best to accommodate this. We ask parents to please keep in mind the operational guidance we are required to work to, be patient with us on the day and only attend if necessary.

Enquiries about Results

As I said in my previous letter:

- Appeals will only be allowed where a **school** believes it has made an error when submitting its information - or if the **school** believes an exam board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade.
- This includes cases where a school believes that significant changes in this year's cohort haven't been properly taken into account during the standardisation process. However, Ofqual says these cases will be rare, as the changes would have to be very big to affect calculated grades.
- A student with concerns about bias, discrimination, or any other reason why a school didn't fairly assign a grade or ranking, should normally raise this with the school in the first instance. However, if they have evidence of serious malpractice by the school, it may be appropriate for them to go directly to the exam board.

The Ofqual document to explain the appeals process and guide schools, students and parents through it has not yet been released but it is clear that the scope for any appeal will be very narrow.

In the circumstances where a student is disappointed with a Calculated Grade, I understand that they may have queries about the result, including any variation between the Centre Assessed Grade that was submitted by school and the Calculated Grade awarded by the exam boards.

Any queries must be submitted via email to cmarshall@stmacademy.org.uk. These queries will be dealt with from Monday 24th August. Staff involved in supporting students on 20th and 21st will not have access to this information.

Autumn Examinations

The GCSE examinations will take place between Monday 2nd November and Monday 23rd November and the deadline for entries is **Friday 18th September**. Students who intend to take any examinations in the Autumn should also email cmarshall@stmacademy.org.uk with details of the subject(s) that they intend to take.

I know that some students will be disappointed that they will not be coming into school to receive their results while other students are pleased that results are being emailed, given the current circumstances. I hope that what we are putting in place will give the support in school that students need, when they need it.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson
Headteacher