



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 13 student results and the support that will be available.

### **Summer 2020 Year 13 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 13<sup>th</sup> August (any student who has forgotten their password should contact school by telephone and a new password can be issued). 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 contacting universities; understandably this year these students will be our priority.

**On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August between 8.00 am and 12.00 pm** any student who needs to access Clearing should come into school for support. Sixth Form and other senior staff will be available for advice and computers/telephones will be available for students to use.

**On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August between 12.30 pm and 3.00 pm and on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August between 9.30 am and 1.30 pm** students who need any other non-urgent support or advice should come into school. For example this may be to discuss deferring university, other progression issues or sitting exams in October.

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 in need of support 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.

## Autumn Examinations

The A Level examinations will take place between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the deadline for entries is **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. It is therefore very important that any student considering sitting an exam discusses it with staff on the Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

## 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](mailto:cmarshall@stmacademy.org.uk). These queries will be dealt with from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. The Sixth Form and senior staff involved in supporting students on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> will not have access to this information.

The **only** exception to this will be for students who are accessing Clearing where a university asks for that information.

I know that some students are 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