

16th July 2020

Dear parents, carers and our Year 11 students,

It is now four months since a partial closure of our school was put in place and you received the news that the GCSE examinations for summer 2020 had been cancelled. We have said this on a number of occasions, but I wanted to reiterate that as a body of staff we were mortified to see you go ahead of time. Below are some key messages that I want you to have before we break up for the summer. Perhaps the most important message is that unless there are major changes in the Government's advice, we plan to open school so that you can physically collect your GCSE grades and have staff at hand to help you process the grades you receive and consider your next steps.

How grades have been calculated

The grades that you will be awarded in August are based on the grade that you would have been most likely to achieve had exams gone ahead. We have analysed a wide range of evidence and data, including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessments, to produce a Centre Assessed Grade. Teachers have done this in a rigorous manner in Faculty teams and the grades that they have submitted have been challenged and signed off by the Head of Faculty and by me as Head of Centre. The grades have then been put through an external standardisation process to ensure that they are comparable between schools and colleges. The key thing to note is that the grades that you receive will have been arrived at following completion of a rigorous process. If you receive grades that you do not feel reflect your ability, you will have the opportunity to sit an exam later in the year, information about which we can review with you on the day.

Arrangements for results day

In line with Government restrictions your results day will run in a slightly different manner than normal. Results day is Thursday 20th August. We ask that you turn up at a pre-allocated time and stick closely to this. These times are based on the first letter of your last name. So:

Time	First letter of last name
9.30-10.00	A-F
10.00-10.30	G-N
10.30-11.00	P-Y

If you enter the school at the middle gate off Cansfield Grove, staff will be there to direct you through the process of completing any forms and ensuring that you get your grades safely. There will then be an opportunity to speak with Heads of Faculty, the Senior Leadership Team and members of our careers team.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)
Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

If you do not want to come and collect your grades in person then we need written permission from the Year 11 student (which includes their signature) to either give the results to another adult or we can send them via secure email.

Further note on the prom

Over the last week I have been contacted by a number of Year 11 students asking for an update on the prom as they have heard that other schools who booked alternative dates have now cancelled them or moved them again. This is precisely why we have not issued a new date as at this point the situation is too volatile. Nothing has changed in this regard since my last letter. We are going to review the situation in September and go from there. We want to have a prom for our Year 11 students, but if the situation remains as it is now with large gatherings, we may need to think of more creative ways to give our Year 11s the farewell that they deserve.

Thank you for your well wishes and your patience during this time. We miss you all and we are looking forward to seeing you on results day. In the meantime have a great holiday.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GB', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Geoff Baker.