



Dear Parent,

25th April 2021

Re: Year 11 arrangements

Can I begin by thanking you for your support last week in making sure that the term started in a calm and purposeful manner. We were delighted with the students' smart appearance and engagement in their lessons.

I thought it important to write with some key information and dates for Year 11 to allow you and your child to plan and feel reassured about what's coming up in the coming months. We understand what a difficult time it has been for our students and want to do everything we can to ensure that they clearly know what is coming and what is expected of them.

Final day: Wednesday 26th May

We have consulted with schools in Macclesfield and regionally to agree a consensus for our final day for Year 11 students. Whilst the Macclesfield schools vary by a few days, we have chosen to have our leavers assembly on Wednesday 26th May at 930am. Students will be invited to attend from 910 with the assembly beginning at 930 prompt. It will be a wonderful chance for staff to wish our students the very best and for students to say thank you to their teachers. The assembly will finish by 1030am at which time students will be expected to leave the school site.

It is important to note that students must be available to come into school for catch up assessments up to the 16th June. Their teachers will contact your child with a time slot to attend school if they are required.

Centre Policy and the assessment system for determining grades

As parents, it's crucial you have a clear understanding of the process this year as it is much easier to raise concerns or questions before the 16th June than afterwards. As you know, we are systematically assessing all students to build an evidence portfolio to determine which grade pupils are currently working at for the topics they have been taught. This does not include any topics missed which is an attempt by Ofqual and the JCQ to level out lost learning time for different schools and students.

We will have key documents on the school website by Friday 30th April's deadline which includes the Centre Policy. This comprehensive document details how we are going about assessing your child, how we will ensure that our decisions mitigate against unconscious bias (e.g., through blind marking, bias CPD training for teachers and standardisation) and the appeals process in the Summer.

After results day, the school is obliged to help parents make appeals against gradings. In terms of the school's responsibility it is simply a case of whether we have followed the

Centre Policy document accurately. We take this very seriously and your child's teachers are working tirelessly to ensure that we are following the policy. If the school is found to have followed the policy, parents can then appeal to Ofqual. However, it's important to know that your child's grade can go down as well as up. Additionally, if your child's grade does reduce, it may also change the grading of other students within the school downwards (a concept known as 'no grade protection' by Ofqual).

I'm sure having read this you agree that raising issues now and us dealing with them collaboratively before the submission makes much more sense than later on! These concerns could be fair access for your child (e.g., examination access arrangements) or making us aware of any mitigating factors beyond lost learning through lockdown (this is not considered to be a significant enough event to register for special consideration by Ofqual).

Your child's teacher has been instructed not to share potential grades with students. Teachers are not permitted to hint or tell students which grade they will be submitting and must run a fair process which follows the Centre Policy.

Mr Reed has been working relentlessly on our plans and can be contacted if you have concerns about your child's grading process. As always, we are only a phone call or an email away.

May I close by thanking you for your continued support. It's been a tough year to be a Year 11 student but by working together we can make sure your child has a fair set of results which reflect the work they have completed at The Macclesfield Academy.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Galvin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mat Galvin