



Perryfields High School and Sixth Form

Specialist Maths and Computing College



Maths &
Computing

8th January 2021

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer,

Cancellation of Public Exams

We appreciate that the news of the cancellation of GCSE exams this summer will bring a lot of uncertainty to your child and also yourselves. Although we do not have enough information from the government as yet to be in a position to address every concern, we are hoping this letter will provide you with some clarity. You can read more about this decision from the government via <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55561838>

We are hoping that the answers to the following questions might offer some help:

How will my child's GCSE grades be determined?

The government have said they will ask for teachers to award the grades for each student. The Minister for Education, Gavin Williamson, said guidance will be released soon on how these grades would be decided. As soon as we receive this information, we will write to you again.

What factors might play a part in teacher decision-making?

At this stage, we assume that the teacher led grades will be based on a variety of assessment results and data collected over Year 10 and 11. This is why it is as important as ever that your child continues to the best they possibly can between now and when they leave, and continue to engage with the remote learning provided.

There are still 5-6 months left and we remain hopeful that your child will be back in school next month when this current period of lockdown comes to an end. This means the home learning, and work completed once they return, will add to the overall picture we have. When school does reopen for Year 11, we plan to still run mock exams/some version of formal assessment with them which will contribute to the final grade they achieve.

What about vocational courses?

There were vocational exams scheduled in the weeks ahead but as you know, we have made the decision to cancel these, which seems to be in line with the majority of other secondary schools in the country. Many students have completed work that has already been externally assessed and Gavin Williamson has been clear that no student will lose out for not doing these particular exams.

“Together We Achieve Excellence”

Oldacre Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0RG
T: 0121 421 7979 F: 0121 421 5718 E: admin@perrys.org.uk
www.perryfieldshigh.sandwell.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr I Barton

Naturally, the work being set at home now will be one part of the overall picture for these units of work so it is well worth addressing. The likelihood is that students' vocational grades will be determined through a combination of already assessed work and teacher judgements on the different units.

What does my child need to do?

Your child needs to continue to work hard on the remote learning and take part in the live lessons, complete the activities set, return work when requested, and to seek support when needed to improve each day. Our teachers will continue to set activities designed to help them learn and improve their overall progress.

We appreciate that home learning is not easy, and that some will deal with it better than others. Remember we are here to help and our pastoral team will continue to be in touch to offer support from an emotional point of view, as well as your child receiving academic guidance.

What can I do to support the school?

In terms of helping us to support your child, the best you can do is to continue to encourage, support and incentivise them to keep going. Learning does not stop with GCSEs. It continues into A-Levels, in college, with apprenticeships, and beyond.

In terms of the school, we would appreciate your ongoing patience as we await further guidance from the government to determine what happens in the weeks and months ahead.

So, what happens next?

We are going to keep the remote learning going and await the government's plans for determining how grades will be awarded.

We remain hopeful that school we will reopen next month – we will endeavour to keep you updated as soon as we receive anything of significance to do with this.

We are hugely disappointed that school cannot be open right now. No doubt you are trying to balance working from home with home tutoring for your children amongst so many other things! Therefore, we cannot stress enough how much we appreciate your ongoing support and patience.

If you have any further queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us via exams@perrys.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Ian Barton
Headteacher