



Woodlane High School

Achieving success in a nurturing environment

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Year 11 Exams and End of Final Year

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are sure you are aware that the Department for Education have taken the unprecedented step to cancel all exams this year. Whilst all schools establish exactly what this means for our Year 11 cohort, we have received assurances that the final approach will be as fair as possible.

The information from the DfE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Final grades will likely be based on a mixture of teacher assessment, mock tests, predicted grades, prior attainment and (where possible) coursework, with a standardised approach across schools and colleges. Exam boards have experience using a similar system to award grades to pupils who could not take an exam, e.g. falling ill directly before the exam. We expect a similar practice to be rolled out across the country, although this is clearly with unprecedented numbers.

In addition, the DfE have stated: *"Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again."* Speaking directly with our partner colleges/sixth forms has helped to reassure us that opportunities will also be available next year, for pupils who need or want to re-sit any qualifications.

There may be situations where some of the qualifications that Woodlane offers are not covered by the guidance, for example Functional Skills exams and Unit Award Scheme modules. The school may explore options for completing these qualifications remotely or via other means further down the line and we will be in contact.

Please be assured that as a school, we will be doing everything possible to ensure all pupils achieve the qualifications their hard work and dedication deserves.

With the end of Year 11 on the horizon, we are sure both parents/carers and pupils are anxious regarding college/sixth form places next year. Most pupils have a place confirmed at a local post-16 provider and we have been assured that this will not change. Our colleagues in these provisions are still working, albeit from home. If you have specific concerns or questions they will be happy to help if you get in touch. Please do not hesitate to contact school too if you feel we can help around post-16 pathways. For the few pupils who still do not have a finalised place, ensure you make contact with me within the next few days to ensure provision is found.

I am sure you share our aspiration that the Coronavirus has no negative impact on the career and life chances of Woodlane pupils.

Best wishes and good health at this difficult time.

Tim Heapy
Deputy Head KS4

