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Dear Parent/Guardian

Key Stage 4 Results Day Plans

I am writing to confirm our plans for Key Stage 4 Results Day on Thursday 20 August 2020, to provide guidance on our post results services this year and share some final pieces of 'housekeeping' for Year 11.

Firstly, please let me remind you of the process that has taken place this year in lieu of students completing practical assessments and formal GCSE exams. Schools were asked to decide what grade a student would **most likely** have achieved had they been able to finish the year as planned. These grades are called Centre Assessed Grades and were sent securely to each exam board following an extensive and rigorous in-school and cross-trust process. Alongside these grades, schools were asked to rank students in terms of who was most secure in each grade. Further details on the process followed by MECE and other Maiden Erlegh Trust Schools can be found on the summary document attached.

The exam boards are currently in the process of applying a standardisation model developed with Ofqual to ensure that grades are as fair as they can be. They will use evidence such as prior attainment of the students (KS2 results) and the school's recent (up to 3 years) GCSE performance data to ensure that final grades are aligned across all schools and colleges. This should make sure that students aren't disadvantaged if some schools have been more generous than others when making their judgements. Based on this, individual grades may be adjusted upwards or downwards from the CAG submitted by the school. It is certainly disappointing for this group of Year 11 that their final grades might be impacted by the results of previous year groups but unfortunately the application of the nationwide standardisation model does not allow for individual schools in-year improvements and the likely positive impact on results to be reflected. However, please be fully assured that we have made every effort to enter a set of results for each student that is as positive as possible given the range of factors we had to consider.

This year it will be more important than ever that students have at hand contact details for their desired post-16 provision so that upon receiving their results they can quickly check that they have secured a place on their chosen courses. I would encourage all students to make contact with the appropriate School / Sixth Form / College / Apprenticeship provider ahead of results day to check what their protocols are for Thursday 20 August – some may have a specific email address / phone numbers they wish students to use, whilst others might ask students to go to their campus in the days following results day to share results and register onto courses.

Results Day

Due to current restrictions in place regarding social distancing we are offering two methods of collection for results this year:

- 1. The results will be available at school, as usual, from 10am 12.30pm on Thursday 20 August in the Main Hall. Students will be allocated a half an hour collection slot in which to arrive. Only students will be allowed to enter the building to collect results during this time.
- 2. Students can receive their results via email on the morning of 20 August (from 8am) and will receive the hard copy results in the post on Friday 21 August. These will be sent to the student's school email address unless **they** send a signed letter / email stating they wish an alternative address to be used (e.g. parent).

If students are unable to collect their results in person and do not wish to receive them via email, they are able to nominate someone else to collect them on their behalf. The nominee must have **a signed letter from the student** (not the parent) which expresses the student's permission for the named nominee to collect the results on their behalf. The named nominee must also bring photo ID for themselves along with the signed letter.

We will not release results to third parties under any other circumstances.

In order to support students who need further advice and guidance with respect to their post 16 provision, members of the Leadership Team will be available to help them on **Thursday 20 August 2020** from **1pm to 3pm**, and on **Friday 21 August 2020** from **9am** to **12.30pm**. Meetings will take place in the canteen. Parents and students will be asked to wait in the Main Hall until they are able to be seen.

Please also note that Adviza, a careers advisory service, will be available to provide independent advice to students during the results period. Details of the availability will follow closer to the time.

In order to assist our planning, I would ask you to confirm by **Thursday 16 July** which of the options your son/daughter would like to take via email (E.Bliss@maidenerleghtrust.org). If we do not hear from you we will assume your son/daughter would like to receive the results via email and they will not be allocated a collection time at school on 20 August. Allocated collection times will be issued shortly after the deadline for returns.

Post Results Services / Appeals

Normal reviews of results and appeals will not apply this summer.

However, if students feel an error has been made they have the right to:

- ask their centre to check whether they made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade / centre's rank order
- ask their centre if the school believes an exam board has made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade.
- raise a complaint to their centre if they have evidence of bias or that they were discriminated against.

Students can also request to see the submitted centre assessed grade for their subjects, however due to the size of the MECE cohort we will not be able to share the rank for any subject as it would compromise the confidentiality of the data belonging to another student.

Students cannot appeal against their school centre assessment grades and position in the rank order.

Further detail can be found in the following Ofqual document: Link

If you wish to raise a query as outlined above, please email Miss Bliss (<u>E.Bliss@maidenerleghtrust.org</u>). We will aim to respond to these queries in writing within 5 working days.

Autumn Exam Series

Ofqual and Exam Boards have announced that there will be a full Autumn series of GCSE exams, most likely taking place in early November. At this time very few details have been shared with schools / colleges. However, it is likely that students will be entered for any re-sit through their current school (MECE) and will sit exams at this site. It is also likely that there will be a relatively short turnaround to register students for any resits. We anticipate further information to be available by results day which will then be shared with you.

Please note that additional lessons/study workshops will not be offered to support Autumn exams.

What about NEA work that I completed?

Any NEA work that students completed was used as evidence in creating the Centre Assessed Grade but no NEA work was individually moderated by the exam boards and no NEA grades were sent to them. This was the only way to make it fair for all students, some of whom may have not completed NEAs before schools closed on 20 March 2020.

Certificates

GCSE certificates from the summer series will be issued at the annual Presentation evening. This event is held at school in November (**provisionally Thursday 26 November**). Further information, including invitations, will be issued closer to the date. Any certificates not collected on this occasion, can be collected in person from reception after the 26 November.

Will certificates look the same as previous years?

Yes. Grades awarded this year will have 'equal status' to grades in other year and certificates will look the same. Grades will be treated the same way by universities, colleges and employers.

Housekeeping

Lockers: any student in Year 11 who had a locker will need to ensure this has been emptied and keys are returned before the end of this academic year. Please ask students to let Mrs Worth (<u>L.worth@maidenerleghtrust.org</u>) in student services know if they need to come to site to complete this task. We will be able to accommodate them on **Monday 20 or Tuesday 21 July between 9-11am**

Uniform: A number of parents have already offered to donate items of uniform / PE kit to the school. Any donated items will either be offered to parent through resale (in liaison with CESA) or used within our Student Service's 'spares' provision. If you have any uniform that you would be willing to donate please drop it into reception before the end of term **(12.30pm Tuesday 21 July)**

Revision Guides: A number of students will have bought, or been given, revision guides which they most likely will not need for onward study. If you would be willing to donate them back to school we can certainly make use of them. These can be dropped off at any time to reception (using the letterbox if outside school hours).

Library Books: We have begun an overhaul of our school library which in the upcoming academic year we are hoping to bring back into the heart of the school community. We would be hugely grateful for any donations of fiction or reference books that are suitable for Secondary School aged children to help bolster our provision.

Presentation Evening: As mentioned, Presentation Evening is provisionally calendared for **Thursday 26 November.** This evening will be a school wide celebration and will, this year, incorporate the main awards from Sports Presentation Evening as well as an opportunity for the current Year 11 to formally mark the end of their time with the school by collecting their GCSE certificates. Invitations and details will follow in the new academic year.

Year 11 Prom: At this time, we have not made any further decisions on a prom date but we are optimistic that we will be able to hold this before the end of this calendar year. As soon as we are able to firm up plans Mrs Ashley will be in contact to share details.

Thank you for your ongoing support as this year finishes for Year 11. I look forward to celebrating all their successes from their time at Chiltern Edge at Presentation Evening in November with you all.

Yours faithfully

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Deputy Headteacher