



Woodside High School

White Hart Lane, Wood Green, London N22 5QJ

Telephone: 020 8889 6761, Fax: 020 8365 8164

Email: mail@woodsidehighschool.co.uk

Website: www.woodsidehighschool.co.uk

30 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

GCSE Examinations 2020

Around this time of the year, we would ordinarily be sharing with you details of the upcoming summer exams. As you will be aware though, the Department for Education announced last week that the series of examinations scheduled for this summer has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. While this news was not unexpected, it has of course added an element of uncertainty into what was already an anxious time for many of our students.

I would like to offer some reassurance at this difficult time to parents/carers and to our students. Firstly, back in mid-February, we had already met the deadline for entries for examined courses and those students entries have been confirmed to us by the examinations boards. We also have details and evidence with regard to the examination access arrangements which were due to be put into place for our students where applicable.

As we awaited a decision from the DfE, we delayed our communication to candidates and families; we will nevertheless now confirm examination entries for those students concerned and you will receive those details soon. This will confirm to you the qualifications for which your child has been registered or entered.

We receive regular updates from the Department for Education, Ofqual, JCQ and all of the different examination boards. At present, we are awaiting official confirmation about the new assessment methodology which will be adopted by the different examination boards. What seems clear enough at this stage is that the grades awarded will be based largely upon the submissions of schools and teachers.

Furthermore, the proposed grading put forward by schools is likely to be based on evidence of the candidates' prior attainment, any coursework or internally-assessed elements of the course, any practice or 'mock' exams, ongoing formative assessment and ultimately the teachers' own professional judgements.

Again, we are prepared for such arrangements and have our own assessment records including those from the recent mock exams and from internal assessments. In addition, we of course know the students very well and have evidence from in-school and external moderation which will validate and verify our assessments.

As soon as we hear of a definitive arrangement for the awarding of qualifications this summer, we will share it with you. Please be assured that we will respond to any request from the examination board in a timely manner and that we will, if requested to do so, submit a fair and accurate assessment for our students.

If your child receives a grade that they are unhappy with, it has been announced by the Department for Education that they will have the opportunity to sit an exam in September 2020. We are awaiting further details of these examinations and how they will be arranged.

Head Teacher: Ms Gerry Robinson



We are aware that some students are worried about their applications to colleges and sixth forms. We are also communicating closely with these organisations and we do not believe that any student's offer of a place at college or sixth form will change based on these new arrangements. If you have any concerns regarding college/sixth form offers please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school and we will help to resolve any issues.

We totally understand how stressful this period is for you and your child. Nobody expected Year 11 to end in this way and we will be working to ensure that your child still has the chance to celebrate their five years at Woodside High School through a Presentation Evening and Prom. We are also currently working on putting together a Year Book so that they have a keepsake of their time at the school.

We will share all information that we receive with you and will follow all the necessary steps to ensure that your child is awarded the grades that they deserve in the summer. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Woodside if you have any questions or worries.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gerry Robinson
Head Teacher