



15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to share with you how schools in Tameside will support your child this year with receiving their GCSE outcomes on 20 August 2020 and progressing onto sixth form, college, apprenticeships, training or work because of the unprecedented conditions created by the Coronavirus pandemic.

For these students, the situation has perhaps been more challenging than for any other cohort. The national examinations that they have been working towards for their whole secondary school career have, as you know, not been taken which has brought mixed emotions for all the students affected.

GCSE 'results' day will therefore be different this year. Students will not be receiving results for examinations taken. They will be receiving nationally standardised grades awarded by the exam boards. These are the grades that will be recognised by colleges and higher education institutions and employers in the future.

In order to arrive at these nationally standardised grades, schools were asked to provide a centre assessed grade for each student in each GCSE subject taken. The school was required to send the exam board two pieces of information for each of a student's subjects, based on what we know about their work and achievements:

- the grade we believe a student was most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned; and
- within each subject, the order of students in school by performance, for each grade to enable the exam board to standardise judgements.

In making these judgements we considered a range of things like classwork and homework; results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework; and a student's general progress during their course.

The exam board standardisation model will draw on a range of evidence including historical outcomes for each school and the prior attainment of students. This means that the centre assessment grades submitted by schools and colleges and the final grade that students receive could be different.

The grades awarded to students will carry the same value as grades awarded in other years and on the results slips and certificates, grades will be reported in the same way.

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

The most important thing is to support our students and ensure they get on to the right post-16 pathways including the right college course or training option. Tameside schools, colleges, providers, teaching unions and the Council have come together to ensure this support is in place and we fully anticipate that for the vast majority of students the process will be straightforward.

The local colleges have been working closely with the local authority and schools to discuss transition arrangements. The colleges will be using the nationally standardised grades awarded by exam boards on 20 August to discuss first year / year 12 study programme options and will use these when taking decisions on programme type and level. This will ensure all students are placed on the right course. It is important that students have all of their grades with them when enrolling, including any taken in years 9 and 10. Tameside schools and colleges have agreed arrangements to communicate with each other during the main enrolment period in order to discuss any issues that might arise with the standardised grades awarded. This will be done on a case by case basis. The colleges will be contacting students with enrolment invites over the summer period. It is important that students arrive on time for these appointments and adhere to social distancing rules; if there are any issues with the time and date of appointments, please contact the admissions team at the appropriate college as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

Once college places, apprenticeship and training options are secured, if for any reason you would like to know your child's centre assessed grades, you can contact us to request them by emailing [info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk](mailto:info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk).

Positive Steps Careers Service will be available to provide independent career advice by calling 0800 484 0407 / 0161 621 9292 or emailing [tamesidecareers@positive-steps.org.uk](mailto:tamesidecareers@positive-steps.org.uk).

Students who are unhappy with their grades will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression.

If you have any issues on 20 August, there will be a number of staff available in person to discuss your concerns. These staff will include Mr Haslam and Mrs Stafford. Details of the arrangements for receiving exam results on the 20<sup>th</sup> August have been sent in a separate letter.

In the meantime, I wish you a happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to sharing your child's achievements with you on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

Yours faithfully



Mr G Rule  
Headteacher