

17.6.21

Dear Year 11 pupil (and parents/carer)

I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and starting to feel more relaxed after a stressful few months of final assessments in school. Many of you will be going to Alton Towers tomorrow and I hope you have a really enjoyable day to mark the conclusion to your 5 years at Hall Green School. However, before tomorrow, there are a number of issues I need to clarify that will affect you over the next few weeks.

Online work

Although you have now finished all of your assessments, the Government has asked schools to continue to support Year 11 and Year 13 pupils up until the last day of term, which for us is Friday July 16th. We are therefore putting work on ClassCharts that you can complete at home. Some of this work covers units that you have missed due to the lockdowns in both 2020 and 2021. This work will be particularly important if you are continuing to study specific subjects in September, so please check ClassCharts to see what has been set. There is also a PowerPoint from Miss Homer that has links to excellent transition work provided by local colleges and sixth forms, as well as some careers tasks you can complete. Please set time aside to see what you need to complete before September.

Results Day

As a reminder, results day will be on Thursday 12th August. Our current plan is for pupils to be able to come into school to collect results from 10.00 am on Thursday 12th, however, if this changes I will email you nearer the time.

Appeals

In any given year, some pupils decide to appeal one or more of the results they get in their GCSEs, and there is a new appeals process for 2021 to reflect the different way that GCSEs have been awarded. If you want to appeal a result, you should download this JCQ form that is linked here, and complete the relevant sections. This will then need to be emailed to appeals2021@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk by Friday 3rd September. This first appeal will be a request for the school to conduct a Centre Review and check that we awarded you the grade we intended and that we followed our own internal policies. Please be aware that we check and double check all of the grades we send to exam boards, and it is very unlikely we have made a mistake. If you do decide to ask for a Centre Review, we will write to let you know whether we have awarded you the grade we intended to, and at this point, you have three choices:

- (1) Accept your grade
- (2) Accept your grade and re-sit your GCSE in the Autumn series
- (3) Ask the school to make an awarding organisation appeal to the exam board on your behalf

















If you choose option 3, and ask the school to appeal to the exam board on your behalf, we will need to be informed by Friday 10th September by email to the appeals2021@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk email address.

We will then send all of the evidence we have of the quality of your work to the exam board by Friday 17th September. However, it is important to note that it is unlikely that the exam board will disagree with our grading decision, and they will only do so if it appears we have not applied 'a reasonable exercise of academic judgement' when awarding your grade. It is also important to note that your grade could go down as well as up, so if you have already got the grades for college, there is a danger that you could lose your place by appealing a grade which is subsequently lowered by the awarding exam board.

I have already shared our Centre Policy with pupils and parents and you may find it helpful in understanding our processes in determining GCSE grades this summer. In case you have not yet read it, I have linked it to this letter here.

Returning School Laptops

If you have been provided with a **school laptop**, you must return this to school before the Alton Towers trip tomorrow (Friday 18th June). Failure to do so will mean that you will not be able to participate in the Alton Towers trip.

Leavers' Event

On the last Tuesday before half term, we discussed having a celebration for Year 11 in school in July, once the final covid restrictions had been lifted. I made it clear that this was dependent on your behaviour being good on your last day in school. I'm delighted to report that your behaviour was impeccable on that Wednesday and you all helped make the final day enjoyable for all pupils and staff – thank you so much! Without question, it was the most enjoyable last day of school for Year 11 in my 14 years at Hall Green.

Unfortunately, on Monday the Prime Minister announced that the final covid restrictions will not be released until 19th July, the Monday after school has broken up for the summer holiday. This will mean we are unable to hold the leavers celebration in school this side of the summer holiday. What we propose instead is to hold an extended certificate evening in school September, starting with food (a BBQ if the good weather holds!), before we have the more formal awarding of certificates, speeches and music. More information on this event will follow, but I really hope you can join us in September to say a proper goodbye.

Enjoy Alton Towers, best wishes and good luck.

Mr M Hosfield

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