



June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by saying how immensely proud we are of our Year 11 students. Not just for the hard work and dedication they displayed when preparing for their exams, but also the resilience and responsibility they have shown under such difficult and challenging circumstances as these. Ideally, we would have liked to celebrate our Year 11, and their time at Winterhill, in the usual way, but this has been a very different experience for you all. However, we must focus on the exciting times ahead for our Y11 students; the skills and experiences they have gained at Winterhill will undoubtedly allow them to be successful in their next stage of education and beyond.

Of course, before this, there are some important updates regarding the awarding of 2020 qualifications which I would like to explain, as well as the arrangements for receiving exams results in August.

Ofqual Announcement Regarding the Awarding of 2020 Qualifications

Since I wrote to you in May, Ofqual issued further guidance on how students' grades will be awarded; they asked each school to submit centre assessed grades for each student in each course and also to rank order, from highest to lowest, the performance of all students within each subject. Please see further details of this process on the school website. This process was designed to be fair to everyone involved, with the aim to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by the current circumstances. Now this process has been completed at Winterhill, all grades have been submitted to the examination boards where some moderation and/or adjustments might take place.

Your child's Ofqual approved exam grades will issued via email to their school email address on the 20th August 2020. If your son/daughter needs assistance in accessing their email address, or you would prefer the grades to be posted, the please contact school via examresults@winterhill.org.uk with your request and your child's full name. Please note, that any grades which have been requested for posting, will arrive **after the 20th August** depending on delivery times.

The government have also announced that an opportunity to sit exams in the usual way, will take place in November, with dates to be confirmed. There will be a full suite of exams offered at this time, with students receiving a result based on the **exam components only**.

Of course, as I have said previously, we are committed to supporting your child in preparing for life after Winterhill and ensuring continuity in their education. Therefore, we are working closely with further education providers on preparing for the next stage in your child's education. For specific A-Level study support, students can access free study guides for a range of post-16 subjects via www.successatschool.org. For those students currently without post-16 plans, applications can still

be submitted to colleges and training providers. The National Apprentice website is also still promoting apprenticeship vacancies; please refer to the Winterhill careers page on our website for further details. Likewise, if you would like any specific guidance or support regarding post-16 study or careers, please email our careers advisor careers@winterhill.org.uk.

Finally, when I spoke to Y11 prior to school closure, I made it clear that we would endeavour to still celebrate their time at Winterhill. However, the likelihood of a prom is decreasing, and therefore, I **have reluctantly decided to refund all deposits at this time**. If it is possible, we will re-visit this in the Autumn.

However, alongside this letter, you will find a personalised certificate to mark your child's time and successes as a Winterhill student, as they have gained many skills and experiences which they should be immensely proud of. You may have seen on our social media sites that we are currently creating a virtual leaver's assembly to celebrate Y11 and their time at Winterhill. This will be shortly posted on the school website and social media platforms.

Finally, we remain very proud of the strong partnerships between our school and the wider community, so I would also like to thank you all once again for your support and assistance in what has been a challenging time for us all. I would also like to wish Y11 the very best of luck for the future as they embark on the next exciting stage of their education.

Take care and stay safe.

yours faithfully

Mr S Rhodes
Headteacher