12 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As you have seen in the news over the past months, the Year 11 GCSE examinations have been cancelled and guidance has now been issued to schools as to how GCSE grades will be determined this summer for students.

Unity College has been asked to follow the following guidelines when working out your child’s grade:

* The grade will be determined based on teacher judgement
* The grade will not be determined by a computer algorithm
* In-college assessments will continue, throughout the remaining weeks of Year 11
* Your child will only be assessed on what has been taught by their teachers
* Your child’s teacher will tell your child what evidence is used to determine the grade.

The guidance given to schools and colleges about what evidence can be used to determine grades was also published by OFQUAL. The guidance they published outlined the evidence that schools should use to award a GCSE grade. This is as follows:

* Historical mock examinations, tests and work already done in Key Stage 4.
* Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) coursework should continue.
* Non-Exam Assessments (NEA) coursework can be used even if the evidence is incomplete.
* The grade awarded in Art and Design will be based on your child’s portfolio work only.
* The exam boards will be providing additional assessment materials to schools to be used to help us to determine grades.
* **Evidence can be based on already completed and future work.**

The final bullet point is the most important one of all. The effort that your child puts in, in the coming weeks, will be critical to the grade that they will achieve on results day on Thursday 12th August. The grades that staff award, through teacher judgement, will be determined on the factual evidence of work produced against the standard expected to achieve a particular grade**. If your child does not have evidence of the grade that you or they believe they should get, they will not be awarded that grade.**

Please note, teachers are unable to discuss what final grade your child will be awarded. Teachers will share information about the individual specific pieces of work.

The coming weeks represent a fantastic opportunity for your child to demonstrate to their teachers what they can achieve. It is critical that your child attends college every day and they need to use this time wisely to ensure they provide the evidence for the grade that they believe they should be awarded.

We have not been informed when Year 11 will leave Unity College but all the teacher assessed grades must be with the examination board by 18 June. The leaving date may be before 18 June but your child MUST be available to come to college every day up and including 18 June 2021.

A few students have asked about Prom. At this point we are not able to plan ahead due to not knowing for definite when restrictions will be lifted nationally for large indoor events. The earliest that the government have stated that indoor events can take place is 21st June but this is totally dependent on the infection rates of COVID-19. Therefore, please do not go ahead and buy dresses/ suits for your son/daughter for an event that may not be able to go ahead. When we get to the beginning of June there may be more clarity regarding the removal of restrictions and we may be able to consider some type of celebratory evening but given the timing of this it will not be in the form of a traditional prom. If an event does happen it would be a more informal gathering and this would take place by the end of June. Invites to such an evening would only be offered to students with excellent attendance, punctuality and behaviour whilst at college between now and the end of Year 11.

It is critical that your child is working hard at all times over the coming weeks, attending college every day and is on time to ensure that they achieve the very best possible GCSE grades they can.

Yours sincerely



S Cryer (Mrs)

Headteacher