

Friday 17th April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers and Year 11 Students,

We hope that, despite the unusual circumstances, you have still been able to have an enjoyable Easter break.

Further to the communication on Friday 3rd April detailing Ofqual's announcement regarding Summer 2020 GCSEs, we would like to provide clarification on the home study expectation.

The letter from Ofqual stated:

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

As a result of this statement, several of our Year 11 students have been in touch to ask if they need to continue to complete work.

Although the work that is completed from this point will not go towards the final GCSE grade, we are advising that work continues in English, maths and the subject(s) to be studied Post 16. The reason for this is it is possible that colleges will ask their Year 12 students in September 2020 to complete assessments in English, maths and the subject(s) to be studied – and we want to ensure that our students perform to the best of their ability in these tests so that they can be certain of a place on their preferred course.

We also feel it is important that our Year 11 students continue to learn, to keep their brain active and engage in study of some form. Failure to do so will mean that resuming study in September will be all the more difficult for any students that have been out of the habit of learning for six months.

As mentioned in the communication on Friday 3rd April, we are working with local colleges to support Year 11 with early access to study, in preparation for the qualifications that they have selected for post 16 study. At present, it looks like this could take the form of reading lists to enable students to be fully prepared for study in September, but we will provide more information when it becomes available.

The letter from Ofqual also included the question and answer:

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so.

With this in mind, we would also like to gather information on the number of our Year 11 students who are considering taking their exams in the Autumn Term and in which subjects. This will help us to support our Year 11 in providing appropriate home study materials.

So that we can continue to set meaningful work for our Year 11 students, we would appreciate it the table below could be copied, pasted and completed and then emailed to Y11study@stb.academy

1)	Name:	
2)	Form:	
3)	Course(s) to be studied at college:	
4)	Chosen college:	
5)	I wish to take GCSE examinations in the Autumn Term	Yes / No
6)	If the answer to the question 5 is yes, please outline the subjects in which you would like to take examinations.	
7)	If the answer to question 5 is yes, please state if you would like us to provide additional revision materials to support with your examinations in the Autumn Term.	Yes / No

In summary, we are no longer expecting Year 11 students to complete work in every subject. Instead, this will be reduced to English, maths and their area(s) of study Post 16, and those subjects (if any) where students are considering sitting the examination in the Autumn Term.

We would also like to make you aware that on Thursday 16th April, the Department of Education announced that GCSE results day 2020 will be on Thursday 20th August, which is the date that the results would have been distributed had this year's examinations not been cancelled. Although this announcement conflicts with an earlier statement made by the government, it seems that the decision to revert to the original date will now give exam boards and Ofqual as much time as possible to work on this year's grading, given the fact that it is a totally untried system forced by extraordinary circumstances. Year 11 students will be able to collect their GCSE results from 9am on Thursday 20th August 2020.

If you have any questions about the points raised in this letter, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Take care and please stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jane Hingley