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Carre's Grammar School

Part of the Robert Carre Trust
Northgate Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7DD
Executive Headteacher N M Law

23 March 2020

Dear Student

It was a very special but sad day for me on Friday to say a premature 'goodbye' to you all. You have been an amazing year group and I hope that you left on Friday with many happy memories of your time with us. It is very important that you now keep yourselves and others safe and well by following the guidance and instructions from the government. The coming months will be challenging in ways that we could never have imagined. We also have to think positively and look forward to our 2020 Leavers' Party that will take place when it is safe to do so.

Please complete any coursework and e-mail to your teachers as soon as possible and certainly by the deadline given to you before the school was closed. This applies for BTEC, CTEC and A level subjects.

As you will see from the information later in this letter there will be the option to sit your exams in summer 2021. In addition, if you do not feel your calculated grade reflects your performance you will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. If you feel that you might, for whatever reason, be in a situation where you will take an examination at a later time it is vital that you complete your courses by following the work and guidance set out for you by your subject teachers which you can find in the pupil drive.

I understand that you will be feeling very anxious regarding what will happen now that your examinations have been cancelled. Please be aware that it will not be possible for your teachers to give you a specific calculated grade at the moment as the mechanism will need to be carried out across all schools in the country in a standardised and fair way following government instructions that have not yet been fully released. We have limited information at this current time but I want to share with you all that we know.

New details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams has been released (20 March 2020). The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. The full details on the impact on summer exams can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

The key points from the government document are as follows:

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university or an apprenticeship in the autumn. This means ensuring students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.

Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will

be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

The government recognises that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis.

In addition, if a student does not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again.

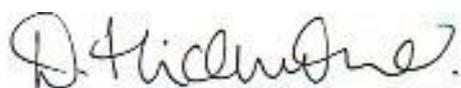
Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

In addition University representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education. Remember that your university application includes a significant amount of information, including your GCSE results, personal statement and teacher reference and I am sure that universities will take this into account. The latest update from ucas can be found via this link:

<https://www.ucas.com/corporate/news-and-key-documents/news/ucas-coronavirus-update-%E2%94%80-monday-23-march-2020>

We appreciate you will be keen to know specific details about likely grades. Until we have had a chance to understand the detail from Ofqual and plan for the regulations for this year that will not be possible. More information will be provided as soon as it is known and we will pass it onto you. Do ensure that you regularly check Carre's website and your Carre's e-mails. If you study at KSHS or St George's Academy please also check those e-mails on a regular basis.

Kind regards



Mrs D Hickmore
Director of Sixth Form