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Carre's Grammar School

Northgate Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7DD
Headteacher N M Law

25 March 2020

Dear Student

I know that you will be anxious regarding the current situation and the fact that your GCSEs have been cancelled this summer. The purpose of this letter is to give you information that will help to answer some of the questions that you might have. The school is following government guidelines so the information in this letter is consistent with this guidance.

It is very important that you now keep yourselves and others safe and well by following the guidance and instructions from the government. In addition, please ensure that you continue to complete the work that has been set for you by your subject teachers.

If you have any coursework to complete then please do so and e-mail work to your teachers as soon as possible, and certainly by the deadline given to you before the school was closed.

In terms of your qualifications, The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), are developing and setting 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. As you will see from the information later in this letter, **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.**

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.

Students who have applied to Sleaford Joint Sixth Form (SJSF) for September will no doubt be wondering how we will determine suitability for selected courses. The SJSF Leadership team Mr Mann, Miss Chant and Mrs Hickmore are working together to ensure that students who have applied to join the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form are not disadvantaged by the current crisis.

We will follow government guidelines regarding calculated grades, full details of which have not yet been released to school leaders. **At this point of time we will not be making any changes to options until we know more information.** Please be patient with us. We will be contacting all of our Year 11 students with more detail as soon as we have greater clarity on how we are going to be able to support you with your application. In the meantime continue to complete the work teachers have set for you.

Some of you might be wondering about the Transition Work for SJSF Post 16 options. That will not have been updated and will not be available on the website until after Easter. In the meantime it is essential that you concentrate on GCSE coursework and GCSE work set to ensure that you are the best you can be in your GCSE subjects.

Details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams was 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/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

<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. 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.

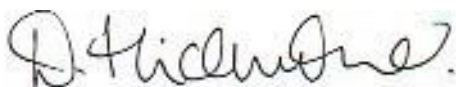
The government recognises that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis.

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.

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.

In your final week at school all students received a copy of their examination statement of entry with instructions for checking the details carefully. Those students who were absent for any reason should now have received this paperwork by post. Our initial instructions asked students to see our examinations officer, Mrs Tracey Williams, in school. With the current social distancing recommendations and reduced staff on site please can I ask that any changes are emailed directly to Mrs Williams (Tracey.Williams@carres.uk) by Monday 30 March. It is especially important that students check not only their personal details but also the subjects for which they have been entered.

Kind regards



Mrs D Hickmore
Director of Sixth Form