

Headteacher Mr S. Richardson

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Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

GCSE Exam Series - Autumn 2020

July 1st 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 11 Students

You will know that students in Year 11 will receive a 'calculated grade' this year because GCSE exams have not been able to operate in the normal way. All schools have provided predictions to the exam boards, which will be put alongside other information, to determine the final calculated grade. These will be released to students on **Thursday 20th August**. I will write to you separately about how we will celebrate Results Day this year once we have confirmed our plans.

You will have heard media reports about students who are unhappy with their grades having the opportunity to take exams in the autumn. Ofqual, the exams regulator, has now provided more detail about what this will look like. The full Ofqual document can be found [here](#). However, I will outline the key points.

The Autumn Exams - November 2020

- Students who want to improve their results in a GCSE subject will be able to take an exam.
- Exams will be available in **all** GCSE subjects.
- Art & Design students will undertake new examined tasks if they choose to take this option.
- Students can enter as many subjects as they wish if they were entered for them in the summer.
- Each subject will have the same number of papers and questions as if it had been taken in the summer.
- Students' grades will be based entirely on their exam performance.
- The exam will then be marked in the usual way.
- The standard process for appealing exam results will apply.
- Exam boards will re-issue GCSE certificates to reflect improved results at a small cost.

Coursework

It is important to be clear that students' grades will be based entirely on their examination performance. Ofqual have taken the decision that because any existing coursework will have been factored into the calculated grade, it

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should not be used as part of the process in November. This is because the November series is designed to help students improve their grade.

At this stage, there has been no specific detail on the precise timings or the locations of exams. Therefore, I cannot share that with you. However, what I hope this information does is assure you that students will have the option, if they so choose, to reflect on their calculated grade in one or more subjects, and have the opportunity to take an exam, if they feel it did not reflect their real potential. Of course, many students will have moved on to their Post-16 courses at that stage, and decisions will have to be weighed carefully. We will provide as much support, guidance and advice to our Year 11 students as possible to help them make the right decision.

If you have any questions about this process please email academy@cas.coop.

My very best wishes to you, and your families.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Richardson'.

Mr S Richardson
Headteacher