

07 October 2013

Our Ref: 2013/021



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Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Mathematics and English

You may be aware that last week the Department for Education announced a policy change with respect to early entry for GCSE. You will also be aware from your attendance to the Information evening we held for parents of Year 11 students on 10 September 2013 that the College had taken a decision to enter a number of students for GCSE Mathematics and English in the November series. The DfE policy change has made this situation somewhat complicated. We remain committed to raising standards and achieving the best results possible for all of our students, not only of course the current Year 11, but all successive cohorts. We will therefore continue to enter a number of students for GCSE English but will not enter any students for GCSE Mathematics. If your child is entered for an external GCSE examination in English, therefore, we will ensure, in the normal way, you receive a copy of their examination timetable before the end of this week by post.

In order to ensure as little disruption to student learning and to ensure we maximise success, all students who were entered for the November series, will continue with their preparation for examinations. A GCSE English examination will take place on Tuesday 5 November and GCSE Mathematics examinations take place on Wednesday 6 November and Friday 8 November. Students will sit an examination on these dates, however, for *most* students this will be an internal trial examination and will not contribute to their final externally examined GCSE grade.

You may also be aware for this cohort that a previous change of policy means that their assessment is *linear*, not as for the previous cohort of students, *modular*. Giving students appropriate practice for their final examination can be key to ensuring we maximise their success. The results of the internal trial examinations will be communicated to the students via their learning tutor and to you as parents via a Mathematics and English Examination Report before Christmas. The results for students who have been entered for an external GCSE English examination will be known in January.

I trust this information will provide clarity and that, by continuing to work together we ensure that all students achieve their best. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College via your child's Personal Tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'E. A. Coffey'.

Mrs E A Coffey
Principal

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