

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Public Examination Groups, Summer 2020.

As you will know, the government have announced that public examinations will not take place this year. We share the disappointment of all of our pupils who have worked so hard and will now not have the chance of showing the fruits of all their excellent work, commitment and resilience in an examination season.

Following the government's guidance on the production of calculated grades, it remains unclear exactly how grades will be decided. When we receive full clarification from the exam boards, we will of course let you know. We are going to be working tirelessly over coming months to secure the GCSE grades and other qualifications our pupils deserve. It is likely that the system created will depend upon our input and justifications, which will probably include analysis of pupils': -

- Mock examination results
- Coursework where appropriate
- Previous performance in external exams and tests
- The school's views on current levels of attainment
- Recent assessments and classwork
- Current and forthcoming assessments and classwork
- The school's previous record with examination results and predictions.

It is likely that work being undertaken currently and also next term will be a contributing factor especially in any decisions about borderline cases. The government will also be putting in place an additional examination sitting as soon as is practicable for any pupil who is unhappy with their exam board moderated calculated grade. This will involve pupils sitting full examination papers and therefore they must be prepared for this eventuality.

It is important that pupils continue to apply themselves to their studies so they are in the best possible position from which to start the next stage of their education. Sixth Forms will want pupils to have completed their courses and advised them appropriately; not to have done this may place pupils in a significant disadvantage as they attempt to make what is already a challenging transition to more advanced study.

I am sure we can count on your support during this difficult time to ensure your child makes the best use of the school's remote learning and teaching programme in the weeks ahead. As we learn more about the government's intentions, we will, of course, be in touch.

During these difficult times, I urge you all to consider the now strict government guidelines on social distancing. I hope we find time to pray for and thank all our key workers who will put themselves at risk daily to help others. I hope you will join me in finding time to pray for all people around the world who will need to work together to overcome this global challenge.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

☎ : 0208 853 6250 ✉ : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk 🌐 : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk 🐦 : @stmattacad

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