

12 June 2020

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students and Parents

### **Grade submission, results days and book return**

Following on from Mr Johnson's letter on 17 April, I write to you with updates on your GCSEs and A Levels, our plans for Results Days and on arrangements for the return of GCSE or A Level textbooks issued by the College.

### **GCSE and A-Level Centre-Judgement Grades**

In line with our plan set out by Mr Johnson, the College has now completed its submission of centre-judgement grades (also known as centre assessment grades) for your GCSE and A Levels. The school has taken its commitment seriously to supporting student aspiration, alongside maintaining an integrity and fairness in how we meet our responsibilities to each child.

This has been a complex and rigorous process, which has involved your teachers looking through a substantial amount of results and data from your courses, and has included a forensic analysis of individual circumstances, contexts and potential. We have modelled how we think you might have improved from data points gathered earlier in the course. We have taken due regard of any unconscious bias, special educational needs, pastoral circumstances, medical challenges, and disabilities. We have looked back at previous data trends and uplift models, but not been constrained by them, always bringing the process back to the individual, our knowledge of you, and what we think is the right grade that best represents you.

We are confident, therefore, that our centre-judgement grades are robust judgements of the most likely outcome you would have achieved in the external summer examinations. Please rest assured that this process is one that has taken your teachers, our Heads of Department, and the Senior Leadership Team a substantial amount of time, effort, and thought. I am exceptionally proud of the rigour that has been central to every step; every individual centre-judgement grade has been generated meticulously, positively, and fairly. They have been scrutinised and challenged at every level of the College.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the patience and understanding you have shown through this complicated procedure, and for the engagement you showed during this unsettling period with your Pre-A Level and Pre-University courses. I know for some of you this has been challenging, and I have been impressed by your continued hard work towards your next stage of education, taking part in lessons with enthusiasm and good humour.

The centre-judgement grades, and student rank orders, have now been uploaded by the College to the examination boards for their own moderation purposes. Ofqual, the examination regulatory body, will also feed into this national endeavour before final grades are calculated and confirmed. It also remains Ofqual's clear instruction that the College is not able to divulge any centre-judgement grades to parents or students. As per Mr Johnson's letter, the calculated grades awarded to students in the summer are not now generated by the College, and we have no further input into them. As such, the actual results students receive will not necessarily be the ones we submitted. Similarly, they may differ from A-Level predicted grades submitted as part of UCAS journeys.

The final calculated grades from examination boards will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.

### **Results Days – 13 August (A-Level) and 20 August (GCSE)**

Students receive A Level results on 13 August 2020, and GCSE results on 20 August 2020. Due to the current guidance for government, we intend to run our results days remotely, and not to host these physically at St Dunstan's, although we will review this in line with any updates from the Department for Education. More details on the precise logistics of these days will be sent to you no later than a fortnight before each respective results day. Senior staff, Heads of Department, and our pastoral teams will all be available to support you on the day and to offer individualised guidance where this is needed. This will include specific guidance from our UCAS and Higher Education team for Year 13 students.

Ofqual and the Department for Education have outlined that the normal process of families requesting 'reviews of marking' will not apply this year. Students who do not feel the grade awarded to them by examination boards reflects their true ability will have the opportunity to sit an exam "as soon as is reasonably possible". We will work with families on an individual basis from results day onwards if you would like to engage with this process.

Finally, the College continues to confirm that every current Year 11 student a place to study a four A Level programme at St Dunstan's in September 2020, unless a family has given formal notice of departure at the end of this year, or where parents have already been contacted by My O'Dwyer for a more in depth conversation. We continue to offer this reassurance with the proviso that A Level subject choices may be altered in the light of student engagement with our Pre-A Level courses, or based on grades awarded this summer. You will receive a written report containing feedback from your Pre-A Level courses before the end of the term, which will also outline enrichment learning for the summer.

### **Book Return**

Students in Year 13 are asked to drop off their A-Level textbooks at any time between 1000-1400 on either **Thursday 18 June, Friday 19 June, or Monday 21 June**. Students in Year 11 are asked to drop off their GCSE textbooks at any time between 1000-1400 on **Tuesday 22 June, Wednesday 23 June, Thursday 24 June, and Friday 25 June**.

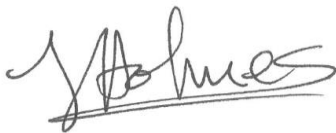
On arrival to the College grounds, you must use the main door to the College, which will be open for you to access the site. You must then wait to be admitted to the foyer (outside the Great Hall) by staff in the College Office. You will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided thoroughly on your entry and exit from the College. There will be a strict system to ensure only one student is permitted from outside into the main building and foyer at any time, with a queuing system outlined clearly on the path leading up to the main door in case of multiple arrivals within a short time frame. Thank you in advance for your patience if you do have to wait a few minutes outside before being admitted.

Your books will be checked-off by staff using our departments' records; any textbooks that are not returned will be invoiced. Please contact your subject teachers if you are in doubt of what we expect to be returned. If you have any questions about Book Return, or can only facilitate this occurring on another date, please contact the College Office directly ([colloff@sdmail.org.uk](mailto:colloff@sdmail.org.uk)).

Thank you for your support of St Dunstan's College during these exceptional times. I know that the whole community was looking forward to the culmination of two years of hard work, and we appreciate how difficult it must be to not have had that feeling of elation as you come out of a GCSE or A-Level paper knowing you were able to demonstrate your best.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your tutor or our wider pastoral team at any time for support before the end of this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Holmes', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Jonathan Holmes**  
Deputy Head (Academic) – Designate