



13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Re: Remote GCSE Exam Results Day – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Student,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe. As you know, the GCSE results will be made available by the exam boards on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Due to the ongoing concerns around COVID 19, we have decided that all students' results will be sent out via email to their **school email address**, in order to ensure that we can maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe. If you have not received an email by 12pm that day, please email our Exams Officer: [s.lake@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.lake@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

We recognise that this is a much-awaited event and one that is often filled with mixed emotion and so please read the following advice carefully.

### On the day

- Do not go on social media - it's tempting to see how others have done, but try not to compare yourself with your peers
- Do not feel rushed into making any decisions. There are deadlines for making applications to further education providers, but it is important to take time to process your results and next steps if you need it
- Do not forget to note down any important information you may need later, such as phone or reference numbers
- Remember that GCSEs are one stage in your life journey, and there are always options and adults to support you on your way

### Appealing centre assessed grades

The government has emphasised the importance of students not being disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances and have therefore made the following arrangements for appeals this summer:

- If a student has evidence of bias or discrimination, then this should be raised with the school and can be investigated by an exam board
- Students can request a review of the school's decision to not appeal to an exam board

Please use this link for the full Ofqual guidance on appeals [here](#).

### Requesting the opportunity to resit

An important feature of the overall arrangements this summer, is the planned additional exam series in the autumn. This will provide an opportunity for students unable to receive a calculated grade and others who would like the opportunity to improve their grade, to take an exam. The link to the actual guidance is here: [Ofqual guidance on the GCSE exam series for autumn 2020](#). The exact timetable for this exam series is yet to be confirmed.



If you have not achieved a grade 4 or above in English or Maths you will resit these as part of your 6th Form programme of study.

### **If you have an offer to SFH6**

If your GCSE results match your conditional offer then we will contact you by email on Thursday 20th August to confirm your place and your course. You will be sent a link to a form, which you will need to complete, to let us know that you wish to confirm your place. This link will also allow you to let us know if you would like to request a course change.

If your GCSE results do not match your conditional offer then we will contact you by email on Thursday 20th August to invite you in for a face-to-face meeting on Friday 21st August. This meeting will give you the opportunity to discuss enrolling on a different course. You will need to reply to the email when you receive it to confirm that you will be attending this meeting. If you are not able to attend a face-to-face meeting, please let us know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Check [here](#) for the SFH6 Enrolment 2020 letter.

### **Missed the grades? Get on the phone**

- Speak to your chosen 6th Form or college as soon as possible to see if they will still accept you. Even if you cannot study the subjects or qualifications you wanted to, they might be able to fit you onto a different course
- If not, then make a list of alternative providers in the area and call around to see if they can offer you a place
- Remember, there are always other options. Apprenticeships offer the chance to study and earn money at the same time and you can do one in areas such as IT, law, health and education.

### **Useful contacts**

- The Exam Results Helpline (0800 100 900) is open 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week, and is totally free – an experienced careers adviser will be on hand to talk about any anxieties you have and help make a plan for what you could do next
- Get in, go far (<https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>) is the government's official website for information about apprenticeships, including details about what is available and how to apply
- Prospects ([www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)) is aimed at A-level and university graduates, but it is a useful place to research careers and find out which subjects or qualifications you need for a chosen career path
- The National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>) provides information and advice to help you make decisions about learning, training and work.

We are extremely proud of all our Year 11 students at Sydenham and we would like to invite you all to a remote 'Zoom Event' at 12pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, to celebrate not only your results but the resilience that you have demonstrated throughout Year 11 in challenging times. Your ability to adapt and change, cannot be measured by a qualification but this is an invaluable life-long skill that will support you in life. An invite to this event, will be sent during the summer holidays.



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



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Enjoy your summer holidays with your family and friends and continue to take the very best of care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely,

*EWijnberg*

Emma Wijnberg  
**Deputy Headteacher**