

## Queries about GCSE results / conditional offers / course choice / enrolment

31 March 2020

We understand that some Year 11 students will be concerned about the completion of their GCSE courses, the grades they will be awarded, and the offers of places they have received to join New College in September 2020.

The government, Ofqual and the examinations boards are currently finalising arrangements for how GCSE grades will be calculated this summer. We understand that this is likely to be informed by teacher assessment (which will take into account a wide range of issues such as mock exams, assessments and student progress), but that final grades will be awarded by the examinations boards rather than teachers and will also take account of issues such as the prior attainment of a student and a school's historical results. This is to ensure that the overall spread of GCSE results this year is in line with previous years. The government has emphasised that students will get the grades that they deserve this summer and it is committed to doing this fairly.

The government has indicated that if students are unhappy with the grades they are awarded this summer they will have the opportunity to complete the exams and we assume this will be early in the autumn term. We expect that only a small number of students are likely to request to sit those exams and we will consider the implications for those students when further information is available from the examinations boards about when those examinations will take place and when we would expect results to be published.

It will be the grades awarded by the examinations boards this summer that the college will be reviewing at enrolment. The conditional offers that applicants have received from New College for September 2020 remain unchanged and those offers still stand.

Students will need to meet the minimum entry criteria for the courses they have applied to study and we do not plan to change the criteria for September 2020. Entry criteria take account of a student's overall GCSE point score and grades in particular subjects, to ensure that applicants have a secure knowledge and skills base for the subjects they wish to study.

Subject to the availability of courses, it is very common for students to change the subjects they study when it comes to our enrolment days, either because of the grades they have achieved at GCSE or because they have changed their mind about the subjects they wish to study. This is a situation we deal with positively and supportively every single year. We will work hard at enrolment to try and find a programme of subjects that each individual student can enjoy, which they have secured the GCSE grades for, and which links to their future plans and aspirations.

We very much hope to run our induction day in July as planned, if schools and colleges have reopened at that stage, and our enrolment days in August. We will obviously keep the situation under close review and will update students if anything changes.

Trust Executive Team