



**ST. MARY MAGDALENE**

C OF E SCHOOL

SECONDARY PHASE

*Excellence through innovation,  
founded in faith since 1840.*

**FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS**

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

**PRINCIPAL**

Mr Razwan Hussain

Thursday, 7 January 2021

Dear Year 11 parent/carer,

I am sending this letter alongside your child's report for Autumn term in order to explain some of the key features of this report specific to Year 11. Much of the information below is expanded upon in the Year 11 Information video I recorded earlier this year which can be found on the 'Year group letters' page of the school website:

<https://www.koinoniafederation.com/page/?title=Year+group+letters&pid=250>

### **GCSE examinations this summer**

On Wednesday 6 January, the Education Secretary confirmed that GCSE examinations will not go ahead. For some students, this may be quite exciting but for others it will be a cause of disappointment or anxiety. The announcement still leaves more questions than answers and we will be working hard and following the guidance from the DfE and Ofqual to ensure students receive robust Centre Assessed Grades. The most recent guidance is that BTEC assessments are to take place at the discretion of the school, and we await further guidance from the DfE before finalising our plans for the remaining BTEC assessments and examinations.

Students' current working grades and predicted grades will not necessarily be students' final GCSE grades. For the time being, students must continue to work hard on their home learning. If students don't complete work on Satchel or if it is of a poor standard, then this may have a negative impact on students' final GCSE grades. Likewise, final GCSE grades may be higher than current working grades if students' work improves over Spring term.

Finally, we have seen a great deal of change over the past few weeks and as a result, we must anticipate further changes in guidance from the Department for Education. We will, of course, keep you informed.

### **Attainment grades**

You will see that your child's current working grade ('attainment grade') has been awarded as a grade from 9 to 1. A grade 4 is sometimes referred to as a 'standard pass'; a grade 5 is a 'strong pass'; while a grade 7 is equivalent to an old 'A' grade. You will also note that there may be a plus or minus sign next to your child's grades; as a school we divide each grade into three bands to indicate how securely the student is working within this grade.

Students will not receive attainment grades in subjects for which they do not receive a final GCSE grade, for instance Physical Education and Additional English and Maths.

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Students sitting BTECs are assessed using a different grading system. BTECs are awarded either a Level 1 or Level 2. Each Level is broken down into Pass (low), Merit (middle) and Distinction (high). As such, Level 1 Pass is the lowest awardable grade and Level 2 Distinction\* is the highest grade. Level 2 Pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4 and Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to a GCSE grade 7.

### Mock exam grades

Students sat GCSE mock examinations in December and you will have received a separate report containing these grades. I hope your child is pleased with how they did and I am happy to report that many students excelled. These grades are likely to form an important part of any Centre Assessed Grades we are asked to award. However, students must continue to complete their home learning to a high standard as this work will most likely also be taken into account.

### Target grades

Students have target grades for the end of the year in each subject; these are in students' books and shown on this report. The target grade is created using several pieces of data, including Fischer Family Trust data (based primarily on Key Stage 2 scores) and students' assessments. The target grade is set at a level so that each student is expected to make at least as much progress as students in schools in the top 20th percentile for progress nationally. This provides an aspirational but realistic target to work towards and it allows you to monitor your child's progress over the course of each year. We are delighted that many students have already exceeded their target grades. If your child is significantly behind their target grade, this is classed as 'underachievement' and your child will have been given additional support in these subject areas. For now, however, students must work hard on their home learning to ensure they make progress.

### Predicted grades

We know that predicted grades are sometimes required for Sixth Form and College applications. Students have predicted grades for all subjects which are available to students' family group tutors for the purposes of writing references; these will not be released to students.

### Attitudinal data

Students are given a grade 1-4 for effort, behaviour and homework. 1 is outstanding; 2 is expected; 3 is below expected; and 4 represents a cause for concern. In a very small number of cases, this data is missing as a result of teacher absence.

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### **Attendance, achievements and behaviour**

Attendance is recorded at the top of the page as a percentage, along with the total number of achievement points (e.g. R2s and R3s) and behaviour points (e.g. C2s and C3s) obtained over the academic year so far. We expect all students to have far more achievement points than behaviour points.

If you have any questions or issues, in the first instance please make contact with your child's family group tutor or the most appropriate subject teacher. The easiest way to do this is by telephoning the school on the number below, or by emailing Ms O'mard ([romard@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:romard@koinoniafederation.com)) to request that the teacher contacts you.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Greenwood  
*Vice Principal*

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