September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Summer 2019 GCSE Exams- Contingency Day

The summer 2019 GCSE exam season may seem like a long way away at the moment, but we have been made aware of some important information that we need to share with you to avoid any issues next summer.

During the spring term, students will be given their individualised exam timetable which will highlight when their final exam will take place. The summer exams usually run from early May, with Art and Photography exams taking place first of all, with formal written exams following throughout May and into June.

However 2019 will be different. Students will still receive their exam timetables but for the first time a contingency exam day has been arranged by the exam boards and added to each student's timetable. The contingency day has been arranged should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2019 examination series.

The decision comes following the tragic events of summer 2017, namely the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. The Joint Council for Qualifications has decided that they need the option to postpone an exam in the event of an incident and rearrange for a later date to allow all students a fair and equal chance.

The date that has been set aside as the contingency day is **Wednesday 26 June 2019**. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the exams in May until Wednesday 26 June 2019. This decision is not an academy decision and does apply to all candidates in all schools.

Please can parents and carers make a note of the new reserve exam day. It will be common and completely understandable for many families to book holidays in June and July as prices will be lower when students have completed their exams. However, it will be devastating for a student to miss out on a good grade after working hard for two years because they might be absent from a rearranged final exam.

Please contact the academy if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Burrows
Exams Officer