



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



22 April 2020

Dear Year 13 Pupils and Parents,

We understand that, as pupils and parents, this continues to be an uncertain and challenging time for you all. You will have received correspondence from Mrs Stewart at the end of last week, regarding the awarding of AS grades this summer. Hopefully, you have had the time to read carefully through the guidance that Mrs Stewart attached from CCEA, along with the message from the CCEA Chief Executive. If you have not had the opportunity to read these documents, we would strongly advise you to peruse the detail and ensure you are clear about the content.

As per the guidance from CCEA:

Students who were due to sit their AS exams in 2020 will not be required to take those exams through an additional examinations timetable.

All AS students will receive an AS grade and there will be no AS exams until Summer 2021. The grade awarded will be based on a range of evidence. Awarding organisations are working towards the model on which grades will be awarded and in which centre assessed grades and centre rank orders will be used. The nature of the AS grade awarded in 2020 will not allow it to contribute to A level results in 2021.

The most important thing to remember is that the process that is being used is designed to ensure that each pupil is treated fairly and is not disadvantaged by the current situation. Please be assured that the College staff will carry out their responsibilities professionally, meticulously and compassionately for each of our pupils. Teachers already have all the information necessary, so there is no requirement for you to contact individual teachers of the school regarding this process.

CCEA also stated:

In summer 2021, students will have two options for their A level award. If a student chooses to only sit the required A2 units, then their AS outcomes will be calculated using statistical predictions based on their performance in the A2 units. If they choose to sit any AS units alongside the A2 units, they will be awarded the highest grade at A level from either route.

With regard to the decisions about sitting AS examinations in the Summer of 2021, pupils should not worry about this at the moment. Each Head of department will advise on the best course of action and teachers will speak to pupils when classes start in September, God willing!

As Year 13 pupils, you are currently in the middle of a two-year course which will be completed in June 2021. It is imperative that you continue to work, progressing through the courses in preparation for Year 14. As teachers get to the end of the Year 13/AS content, they will make a start to prepare for Year 14/A2. Remote learning can be challenging, especially when covering certain topics, however staff are working tirelessly to support you and ensure that you avail of the best teaching, given these circumstances. If any Year 13 pupils are experiencing difficulty with Google Classroom, then please contact us and we will address.

Repeating the message that was sent at the beginning of this phase of our lives, pupils should approach Monday to Friday as a school week, dedicating quality time to their AS (and now A2) subjects, as if they were in school. Pupils need to be organised and proactive and put into practice the strong 'Malachian' resilience! A balance of school work and other activities will keep them occupied and healthy.

Exam time this year will be a totally different experience, but we realise it also comes with a different form of anxiety and stress for many of you, as pupils and parents. Information has been communicated via the College website and Parent App, regarding the Safer Schools App. This includes invaluable information and support during these times when children and people can be at home for extended periods and are perhaps experiencing anxiety about the ongoing situation.

CCEA have also stated that they are working hard to ensure results are published on the 13th August, but will confirm this as soon as they can. We will communicate details about procedures for the collection of AS results, as the situation evolves.

Please be assured that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Continue to keep safe and look after your loved ones! We will keep in touch.

Yours sincerely

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Head of School KS5

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