

# St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear all KS4 Students and Parents/Carers,

We understand the uncertainty and anxiety associated with these challenging times and we want each of you to know that the well-being of our young men is paramount.

During this time, your son may need pastoral support. Please contact his Form Tutor or Head of Year if you have any concerns. Our website has a list of contacts for various external agencies offering support. I would also like to remind you that the College counselling service which is provided though the agency FamilyWorks is still available for our boys. Anyone wishing to avail of counselling can email Ms McCusker at [dmccusker152@c2ken.net](mailto:dmccusker152@c2ken.net) or, you can use the online referral form available on the EA website. Further details regarding this can be found on the College website.

Last week, after the announcement by the Minister of Education, Mrs Stewart shared with you the most recent communication provided by CCEA about the processes which will be in place regarding the awarding of GCSE grades this summer. Please ensure that each of you are familiar with the content and understand its implications. Further information, as well as answers to many questions, can be found on the CCEA website ([www.ccea.org.uk/summer-awarding](http://www.ccea.org.uk/summer-awarding)).

## Year 12

As you are aware, the GCSE exams for May-June 2020 have been cancelled. Year 12 pupils will receive a final GCSE grade for each of their subjects on 20 August, as previously planned.

Teachers are working very hard to agree upon Centre Assessed Grades and rank orders for each entry. Once finalised these will be forwarded to CCEA by the College, CCEA will then use statistical predictions based on previous performances to produce the final calculated grade which they will then issue in August.

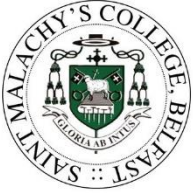
The guidance is very explicit in stating that Centre Assessed Grades **must not** be shared with parents or pupils. These Centre Assessed Grades must remain confidential as they are subject to change by the standardisation process carried out by CCEA. Please respect this guidance.

If students believe that they could have achieved a higher grade than that awarded by CCEA in 2020, there will be an opportunity for pupils to enter the GCSE examinations during the summer 2021 series. I wish to emphasise the importance of Year 12 completing all GCSE courses. This is vital in relation to a possible future resit and also smooth transition into Year 13 study, establishing a sound starting point for any AS course.

## Year 11

Within the College all Year 11 pupils were due to sit a significant number of GCSE modules in May/June. These examinations have also been cancelled.

Year 11 pupils who were completing their GCSE Maths (after one year of study) will be awarded a grade by CCEA on 20 August. This grade will be determined using the same process outlined for



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Year 12. Pupils who had been entered for modules, which only form part of a GCSE, will NOT receive any results or grades in August.

On review of the guidance you will note that two options are available moving forward, either to enter the students for all GCSE exams in Summer 2021, or to move on into the new academic year, only entering the students for the remaining exams which were already scheduled for 2021. CCEA would then award an overall grade based only on the Year 12 performance. As a College we are discussing these options and their implications for our students. Once the new academic year commences, hopefully in September, Mrs Stewart hopes to provide further direction regarding this matter.

The academic year, for Year 11, is not over! This is a two-year course.

Please ensure that your son continues to engage with the Google Classrooms and remote learning that continues to be provided by a hard working staff. Pupils should continue to approach Monday-Friday as a school week, maintaining a good routine which includes dedicating quality time to studies, as if in school. Everyone needs to be organised and disciplined with a healthy balance of school work and other positive activities.

All work set by subject teachers must be completed as the Year 11 course content must be covered, ensuring adequate preparation for the final year of GCSE study. In some cases, subject teachers may begin delivering Year 12 work. This is an excellent opportunity to further support our students as they commence their study for the next academic year when they will sit their GCSEs examinations.

CCEA have mentioned GCSE examinations timetabled for the months ahead. Please note that the timing of these examinations are; November 2020 (Single & Double Science) January 2021 (Maths) and March 2021 (Single & Double Science). Entries for these examinations will be finalised on our return to school in September.

I trust this letter has helped answer some questions you may have. The situation continues to evolve and I suggest you continue to monitor the CCEA website which has some very helpful documents.

Please be assured that the College staff will carry out their responsibilities professionally, meticulously and compassionately for each of our boys. The College office remains open every morning and individual teachers can be contacted by email.

Thank you for your support and I hope that you and your family are well.

Yours sincerely

Mr F Toner  
Head of School KS4