

1st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The time has come for me to write my final letter to you as a parent of a Year 11 student at John Spence and it is with sadness that I reflect on what has been missed over the past months following the lockdown on 20th March. Having said that, it is wonderful to hear that the vast majority of students have places secured next year so that, as we start to return to normal, they can move on with their studies in areas that will be preparing them for adult life.

It is important not to forget the fantastic achievements of the year group over the 5 years they were with us at John Spence whether that was sporting success, fundraising, school shows, Duke of Edinburgh Award or involvement in the countless other opportunities that they have engaged with over the years. So we do celebrate their time with us and recognise that the class of 2020 will always be that little bit special because of the challenges they will have faced and overcome as a result of the current crisis.

As we move towards the summer your child will inevitably start to be thinking about results day on 20th August and even though they were not able to sit their examinations, they should still recognise that their grades are a reflection of everything they have done over the years. The Centre Assessed Grades will have the same value as normal examinations in a normal year and as such we do expect there to be the spectrum of emotions we usually see on a results day from joy to sadness and perhaps for some frustration.

The arrangements for results day this year will have to be different due to the ongoing restrictions and unfortunately it will not be possible for your child to come into school to collect their results as they would normally do. Instead, the following arrangements have been put in place:

- Students will be emailed their examination results at 09.30 on 20th August 2020.
- Where necessary, members of the Senior Leadership Team or Mrs Wyllie will contact some students during the morning to discuss results.
- There will be a virtual drop service available at designated times throughout Thursday 20th and Friday 21st August if students wish to discuss their results. The link for these sessions will be sent in the results email to the students.
- Contact details for post 16 providers will also be provided in the results email.

The results will only be emailed to your child's school email address that is usually in the following format: firstname.surname@ntlp.org.uk. The majority of students have accessed these accounts relatively recently, but we sent a test email yesterday that requested a reply from your child so that we know the account is live. If we do not receive a reply, we will be in contact to reset the password.

In some cases, results may not be what your child had hoped for or expected and sadly this is the case every year. As mentioned in earlier letters the Centre Assessed Grades submitted by the school are confidential and this remains the case so if you would like to discuss the grades we would only be able to comment on the grades awarded by the exam board following their standardisation process. There may be cases where the grades we submitted are changed by the exam boards, but we will not be in a position to appeal against this unless there appears to be an administrative error.

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These are obviously very unusual circumstances, but following discussions with local post 16 providers, I know that they will treat each student's results on an individual basis and will be as flexible as possible. We will obviously contact post 16 providers in support of your child if they did not achieve the grades necessary for their chosen course.

If circumstances allow we still intend to host our Celebration of Success evening next term, but will obviously have to wait for guidance nearer the time before we decide on the format of the event. The same applies to the prom; it would be great to get the year group together for one last time and we will hopefully be able to do that at some point next term, but don't go out buying outfits just yet!

It is a real shame that school ended for your child in the way that it did and I am glad that we did manage to squeeze in a leaving assembly just before lockdown; looking back now it is incredible how much has changed so quickly. Finally, from all of us at John Spence, thank you all for your support over the years and we wish you and your child the very best for the future.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Heath', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Jonathan Heath

Headteacher