

March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Summer 2018 GCSE External Examinations and Ramadan/Eid Al-Fitr**

As you will be aware, GCSE and other examinations take place for year 11 students in May/June 2018. Students and teachers are working hard to ensure all students achieve the best possible outcomes with these examinations. The GCSE external examinations which begin on the 14th May 2018 and finish on the 26th June 2018 coincide with Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr.

I am fully aware that families will decide for themselves, in line with their mosque, how they and their children will observe Ramadan and it is certainly not the school's responsibility to interfere with those decisions. However, it is important that I make you aware of the realities of the external examination system and the demands it imposes on young people.

Grades attained at GCSE are critical to further education and career prospects of all young people. The external examinations timetable is determined by the examination boards and not by the school. This is to ensure confidentiality of all papers across the country. We are not allowed to change the date and time of an exam. For example, on 5th June 2018, your daughter will be expected to sit her GCSE English Language Paper 1 in the morning session. If any student fails to turn up to that examination, she will not be able to sit it later on that day or any other day during the 2018 summer external examination season. In fact, the earliest she could do the examination would be in June 2019, a year later. The same applies for all GCSE and BTEC examinations. The grade for failing to attend an examination or for a missing paper is an X which would prevent your daughter from moving on to Sixth Form, college or apprenticeship.

I think it is important that you are made aware of the realities of GCSE examinations at this stage so that you have time to consider the options you may have in order to support your daughter through a very important time of her life.

Enclosed is the full timetable of examinations. If you have any concerns about the examinations please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Rae Potter  
Headteacher