

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Principal:

J.A. Maxwell

BA (Hons), PGCE, MSc, PQH (NI)

Telephone: (028) 93363615

Fax: (028) 93364270



120, North Road
CARRICKFERGUS
Co Antrim
BT38 7RA

Education Authority - North-Eastern Region

16 April 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian of Year 11 students

I trust that this letter finds you well, and that you are in good health. The entire school community is foremost in my thoughts at this time.

Information about Year 11 summer CCEA modules

This afternoon CCEA published a guidance document for students, parents and teachers with detailed information on the awarding of GCSE, AS and A Level grades this summer. It can be located at the following link: https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/Guidance%20document%20for%20Student%2C%20Parents%20and%20Teachers_4.pdf.

A message to students and families from the Chief Executive of CCEA, Mr Justin Edwards, can be accessed here: https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Examinations/A%20message%20to%20students_0.pdf.

I wish to share below a summary of that information with you, and what it will most likely mean for our Year 11 students at Carrickfergus Grammar School.

Year 11 students will not be receiving module results this summer for external modules they were due to sit. Instead, two options will be put in place for next year:

Option 1:

Students may complete ALL modules, including modules they were due to sit this summer, at the end of Year 12 in May / June 2021.

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS
www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

Option 2:

Students can complete their Year 12 (terminal) GCSE modules only at the end of Year 12 in May / June 2021. In this circumstance, they will receive a predicted mark for their Year 11 modules based on a statistical prediction procedure. This prediction procedure for Year 11 modules will be based on their performance in the Year 12 modules. This means, invariably, that student performance in the Year 12 modules will most likely need to be strong in order to secure a good overall GCSE grade.

CCEA states that *'whichever option a student chooses, they will be awarded the highest grade'*. Carrickfergus Grammar School presumes that this may mean the following, subject to clarification from CCEA:

- If a child sits both Year 11 and Year 12 modules at the end of Year 12 (Option 1), but the statistical analysis indicates that they would have received a higher grade had they undertaken Option 2 above, they will receive the higher grade;
- If a child sits both Year 11 and Year 12 modules at the end of Year 12 (Option 1), and the statistical analysis identifies that this option has secured them a higher grade than had they undertaken Option 2, they will receive the higher grade from Option 1.

The options and implications outlined above mean that important decisions are going to have to be made regarding ultimate examination entries for the summer of 2021. Staff at school will now take some time to reflect upon and consult with each other based on this afternoon's announcement from CCEA, and I hope to be in a position to write to you again next week. Carrickfergus Grammar School emphasises its total commitment to working productively in partnership with students and parents in order to ensure the right possible option and pathway for our children.

As a result of the information published by CCEA this afternoon, I would like to emphasise the following:

- It remains absolutely vital that, after Easter, our Year 11 students continue to engage and to work assiduously through the material and resources assigned to them via the Google classrooms, and for as long as the lockdown continues. Students will be expected to demonstrate engagement in the classrooms and online lessons, to upload work as necessary and as advised by their teachers, to meet deadlines and to communicate with their teachers via the Stream Room or e-mail as applicable if they need support or assistance. School will monitor the engagement of students carefully and will continue to liaise with parents when necessary. We have greatly appreciated the tremendous support that parents have given us as we embraced this new online platform;
- Carrickfergus Grammar School will take the unique step of trying to arrange an additional parent-teacher consultation in late August 2020 (provided that lockdown and social distancing measures have been relaxed) to allow you and your child an

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS
www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

opportunity to discuss with subject teachers the potential Year 12 pathway he / she may follow.

Communication

As we approach the start of the summer term, may I remind you of various communication channels the school has in place to support and assist you and your child as far as possible.

Information and updates regarding individual subjects will be posted in the respective Google Classrooms.

Parents can contact the school as usual via the school phone line on 028 93 363615 during the day or the additional number of 07395930976. The general school e-mail account is info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk . Any general Google Classroom issues can be addressed by forwarding the query to kcrooks461@c2kni.net . Safeguarding issues will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. These, and any other pastoral issues, may be addressed by contacting lkane502@c2kni.net .

The school community is also asked to check the school website on a regular basis for further updates.

In Summary:

Tel: 028 93 363615 // 07395930976

Email:

General: info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

Google Classroom / IT: kcrooks461@c2kni.net

Pastoral / Safeguarding: lkane502@c2kni.net

Website: www.carrickfergusgrammar.com

Conclusion

Finally, may I thank you as parents for your tremendous support. I appreciate that for many students, the opportunity not to sit Year 11 modules this summer following much hard work and endeavour throughout the year may be disappointing and frustrating. I am confident, however, that the exam board will do everything possible to ensure that grades awarded next year are fair, and totally reflective of the hard work and commitment manifested by our fine students. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, concerns or issues.

Stay Safe

J. A. Maxwell
Principal

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS
www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS
www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk