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12th July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As I write to you at the end of this term, I would like to begin by thanking you for your support in another extraordinarily unusual and difficult year. Your children have been as resilient, hardworking and optimistic as ever, and as a result, we have had a very successful year, despite the restrictions we have faced.

I will be providing some important information below. Please read through the whole letter carefully.

End of term arrangements:

Our term finishes on Wednesday 21st July and all year groups will be dismissed at around 12pm. We will dismiss students in a staggered way and ask that they make their way home as quickly as possible.

Return to school in September:

We are currently planning to return to school in the following way:

- Thursday 2nd September - Year 12 to attend assembly in the morning - further details to follow.
- Friday 3rd September 2021 – Year 13 to attend assembly. Year 7 and Year 12 begin school.
- Monday 6th September 2021 – All other year groups to return to school.

Please be aware that the Government has announced that schools are going to be undertaking Covid testing at the beginning of the year. We do not have any further details on this, but it is likely that we may have to stagger the return to school further, so that we are able to undertake the testing required. **As previously, we will try to test most students before the start of term, so that we can begin term as quickly as possible. I will provide more information about this in August so please check your email carefully, towards the end of the Summer holidays.** No further consent for testing will be required as we have already obtained this. If you did not give consent for your child to be tested, you do not need to let us know again, as we already have this in our records.

Currently, the Government has announced that Covid restrictions will be lifted in schools as of September and that there will no longer be a requirement to operate in bubbles. This means that we will be able to revert to normal start and finish times for students, **so we will expect all students to be in school at 8:30am every day.** However, please note that Government guidance may change, and **I will write to you again in August to confirm the arrangements for September.**

Teacher Assessed Grades and Results Days:

This year, we have, of course, had to issue Teacher Assessed Grades. All grades have been based on a fair and positive system and have required evidence to be available to examination boards. The examination boards will ultimately be deciding and awarding the A level and GCSE grades, and if your child believes that the grade is not a reflection of the evidence they have produced, there is an appeals

system which you may follow. Information about the appeals process is now available [on our website](#), where you can also find our [appeals policy](#). To ensure that we remain objective and continue to apply our fair grading approach to any appeals, **please note that we cannot accept any appeals in person**. If your child wishes to make an appeal please ask them to complete the GHS Centre Review form, which is available on the website, and email this to the appeals email address. Please be mindful when making an appeal that the grade could go up or down.

Year 13 Results Day

The results day for Year 13 students is **Tuesday 10th August**. We will be able to issue the grades from **8:30am**. We will be emailing each student's result to them from 8:30am. Students will also be able to come into school to collect their results and speak to members of the Post 16 team for any support that they may need.

Year 11 Results Day

The results day for Year 11 students is **Thursday 12th August**. We will be able to issue the grades from **8:30am**. We will be emailing each student's result to them from 8:30am. We will be sending out emails to Year 11 students confirming places in our Post 16 centre on this day too. We may also need to advise some students that they need to make some changes based on the awarded grades. Only students who need to enrol or make some changes to their courses will need to come into school from 9:00am.

Year 10 Results

All Year 10 students will have their results emailed to them on Thursday 12th August. They do not need to come into school.

All of this information about results days is also available on our [website](#).

Show my Homework:

From September we are going to start using **Show My Homework** to set homework for our students. **Show My Homework** is an online platform that links to an app which can be downloaded onto your phone. This means that both students and parents can use their phones to check exactly what homework has been set, when the deadlines are and what has been completed.

Students have been asked to logon to **Show My Homework** over the course of this year, so please check that your son/daughter has done this. Details of how parents/carers can also logon and download the app will be sent to parents at the start of the new school year. Students will also be issued with planners at the start of the school year as we get used to this new system, but they will not be used as widely as they have been and staff will be setting homework online.

Uniform and PE Kit:

Please note that we expect all students to be in full, correct uniform at the beginning of September, so please make sure that you stock up on any missing items. Students will also be expected to bring full PE uniform, which should include GHS bottoms, not unbranded alternatives, on the days that they are doing PE. As we can use the changing rooms in September, students should not come into school dressed in their PE kit; they should bring it with them on the days that they have PE.

If you have any uniform that you are able to donate, particularly if your child is in Year 8, moving up to Year 9 and therefore wearing the new blazer, please do bring this in and mark it for the attention of your child's Head of Year.

Character Strengths

At GHS, we continue to focus on **Character** and have spent much of this year introducing students to our agreed 'GHS Character Strengths'. **Character** defines the qualities that people see in each other. They

are a set of character traits, desires and habits that are slowly engraved during the challenges of growing up.

Please talk to your children about our five core **Character Strengths: Courage** – standing up for what is right; **Community** – building connections with others to create an environment of respect where everyone belongs; **Responsibility** – being accountable for the decisions you make; **Compassion** – caring for others and treating them with kindness; and **Resilience** – showing grit and having the ability to cope when things don't go to plan. We will continue to embed these strengths as we return in September.

Behaviour

Whilst the vast majority of our students abide by our 3 school rules of 'Ready, Respect, Safe', there have been a very small number of students who have not managed to live up to our high expectations this year. Please could you remind your child over the Summer, to follow the instructions of their teachers and work with us to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all. We will not hesitate to sanction those students who fail to follow our 3 simple school rules.

Once again, may I please thank you for your continued support for all of us here at GHS, and may I please wish you all a very pleasant and restful Summer. I am hopeful that next year we will be able to return to a more normal state of affairs at school, and I look forward to meeting a lot more of you in person in the coming months.

With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Pye
Headteacher