

4 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

During the summer examinations, the English language, literature and mathematics GCSE grades will be given a numbered grade. This means all students sitting examinations this summer will get a combination of number grades for English and maths and then letter grades for every other subject on their certificates.

The government has announced that a grade 4 in these subjects will now count as a "standard pass" and a grade 5 will be a "strong pass" – so, what does this mean for your child?

For this academic year (i.e. students sitting examinations in 2017):

- Students will qualify to move on to the next stage of their education or career, without having to re-sit the subject, if they have a grade 4 in English and maths.
- Students who fail to achieve at least a grade 4 in English and/or maths will continue to study these subjects until they are 18 or achieve a grade 4 or higher in the subject

This government change, just weeks before the GCSE examinations start, demonstrates how quickly things change in the current educational climate. There is currently no clarification how long a grade 4 pass in these subjects will be classed as "good enough", therefore, as a school we are proposing the following:

- Over the next few weeks students continue to aim for at least a grade 5 in the summer examinations
- Students who go on to attend HGSC Sixth Form and have achieved a grade 4 in maths and/or English, will be strongly advised to continue to study the subject at GCSE level during year 12 and 13 until they achieve at least grade 5

We need to ensure our students and your children are as best prepared for their futures as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hudson', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Hudson
Vice Principal