



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Ref: Yr13 Examination Results Day

I am writing to inform you of arrangements for A Level results day on **Thursday 13 August**.

We intend to distribute A Level results in person on the morning of results day but we will have a back-up plan for distributing results electronically, if the local or national coronavirus guidance changes. Please check all of our usual communication channels for further information in the lead-up to results day, which includes: the school website, Twitter, student and parent email addresses.

Our preferred option is to hand results over in person and we will, of course, follow whatever guidance is in place at the time, with regard to social distancing and movement on and around the school site. We will make the process as safe as possible, under those limitations. We genuinely want to be able to celebrate the achievements of our young men and women and support them in making the very important decisions necessary on such a momentous day. Staff will be available to advise on university choices, the clearing process and other pathways through to higher study and careers.

### Logistical Arrangements for 13 August:

1. There will be no parking on the school site and no other family members or friends will be allowed past the school gates. Students will not be allowed access to any other part of the school, including lockers, while collecting their results.
2. Students must only arrive on site after 8am on Thursday 13 August. No student should arrive at school earlier than this. We will be open until 11am for students to collect their results in person. Any visit to the school after this time must be made by prior appointment.
3. We have been told that UCAS Track is due to be updated at 8am on that morning. To avoid too many students gathering at the school at 8am, we would ask that only those that strongly suspect, or have had it confirmed via UCAS Track that they have not achieved the grades necessary to meet their university offer, arrive at that time. It would help us to keep everyone safer if students check UCAS Track *before* coming to school site and then planned to space out their arrival accordingly. If your place is confirmed, please wait until after 9am to collect your results.
4. Entry to the school site will be via the main gate only. Exit will be via the pedestrian gate onto the Sutton Road by the PE Block. Staff will be present on the main gate to direct students to the appropriate part of the school to collect their results. If the weather is good enough, we hope to be able to issue grades outside but we will have wet weather plans in place too.
5. Reimbursement of the locker key deposits will also take place on that day.

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6. We will be encouraging all students to leave the school site as soon as they have collected their results so that we can support those students that are in greater need of pastoral support and guidance on next steps.
7. Pastoral staff will be available in the Collier Centre for SEMH support, if required. This is a drop-in provision for those students that need some time to talk through their results.
8. Staff will be working on 13-14 August and will be available to discuss any concerns raised over next steps. We will not be allowing visitors on site, without a prior appointment, after the initial handing over of results. Please email into school for any further support and someone will arrange a phone call back.

We do understand that all students' family situations are different and that you may not want your child to come into school on results day, due to concerns over transport and health vulnerabilities within the family home. Please contact the School to make alternative arrangements as soon as possible, if that is the case. **It is vital that the students DO NOT attend the school if they, or a member of the household have symptoms.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We understand that many students are missing their friends but we must ask for your support in ensuring that results day can be conducted in a safe and orderly manner. This is always an emotionally-charged event but we must do all that we can to protect our staff and students from Covid-19 infection. We will therefore be imposing strict social distancing rules at all times, while on site. We look forward to a time that we can all come together, without restrictions, to mark the end of their time at the School but until then we must continue to follow the current Government guidelines. We ask that students do not linger on the Sutton Road or wait for others. They should observe social distancing and make their way home immediately. The government has produced specific guidance for young people, to help them adhere to those rules when out and about:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july>

We will be strictly following these rules on the school site and at the entrance and exit. We would ask that all students carefully follow social distancing guidance on the journey to and from school and avoid gathering in public spaces, especially on the Sutton Road. We will expect the highest standards of behaviour and conduct from our students on and around the school site, with extra consideration given to the personal spaces other students, staff and our neighbours in the wider community at this difficult time. We would also ask parents not to congregate outside the school gate if dropping-off students. Please stay in your car, if at all possible. If students are using public transport, the following link includes a range of considerations on responsible travel, including specific guidance on public transport: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

#### **Guidance on Grades, UCAS and Clearing:**

This year, an embargo has been placed on results until 8am. This is a national restriction, so all schools and universities should abide by these rules and we cannot give out results any earlier than this. While the school submitted its Centre-Assessed Grades to the exam boards for the 12 June deadline, we will not know what grades have been awarded by those boards after national standardisation until results day. Our understanding is that UCAS Track will be updated from 8am and it is at this point that we can offer the necessary support and advice, in light of results and university decisions.



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Those candidates who do find themselves in the position of not securing the A Level grades required by their conditional offer are advised to:

- Telephone the Admissions Tutor where they hold a firm conditional offer and ask whether they will be accepted even with the lower grades achieved (unless that decision is already clearly posted on the UCAS website). It pays to have the telephone number of the university already stored in a fully-charged phone.

*If the answer is no and the results satisfy the requirements where they hold an insurance conditional offer, they need do nothing further. They will be automatically awarded a place there.*

However, if the results are lower than the grades required for the insurance offer, then they should:

- Telephone the Admissions Tutor at the university where they hold an insurance offer and check whether or not they will be accepted with the grades achieved.

*If the answer is no, then they should:*

- Find out what is available through UCAS Clearing. Be ready with appropriate phone numbers and make early calls to stake a claim to the best available places.

Results will be handed ONLY to the candidates. They will NOT be issued to a third party without prior consent from the candidate and only then once photographic evidence has been provided by the person nominated to collect the results. Please contact the Examinations Office for further information. Those which have not been collected on the day will be retained in school. We cannot give results out over the phone so please do not call us. Further information about arrangements on site will be given out nearer the time.

I shall be available, along with other members of the Senior Leadership Team, at School on 13 and 14 August to discuss problems, support new applications and offer advice on possible next steps. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, do not hesitate to get in touch.

I wish all our Year 13 students every success.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R J Langton

Headmaster

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