

# Glenlola Collegiate School

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Headmaster: W E Thompson BSc MSc MEd PGCE PQH(NI)



20 January 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

We will shortly be issuing tracking reports for pupils in Years 8-11 and written reports for pupils in Years 12-14, based on their winter examinations. You will appreciate that these have been produced under difficult circumstances. In addition, some subject comments were written prior to the Education Minister's announcement that examinations were to be cancelled and so may contain references to GCSE and A level examinations. However, as teacher comments outline ways in which pupils may improve their learning, this guidance still holds true and should be taken on board for any assignments or assessments completed this term.

Recently the Education Secretary, Mr Gavin Williamson, made a decision to ensure a more generous grading than usual for examinations to be taken in summer 2021. GCSEs and A levels are to be graded in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams>)

Given the ongoing disruption to education in Northern Ireland it is possible that a similar decision will be made by the Education Minister, although this has not been confirmed. Currently we do not know what approach the Department of Education will require schools to take when setting final grades. Therefore, we have decided to scale the December 2020 mock examination results in line with grade outcomes for summers 2017-19, pre-Covid, and so these should not be interpreted as final grades.

Once reports have been issued, we intend to hold parent consultations for each year group, via an online platform. You will be notified of the dates for each consultation in due course and given guidance on how to participate in advance of the consultation. In the meantime, I would encourage all pupils to take part fully in any assignments or assessments set by their teachers. This is of particular significance to those taking GCSE, AS and A level courses, as it is possible, we may be directed by the government to carry out some formal assessments to support the awarding of grades.

To further facilitate continuity of learning, we have taken the decision to reschedule the planned Baker Day (22 January 2021) and the School Development Day (22 February 2021) to later in the academic year, dates to be confirmed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your daughters in their online studies since the start of term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'W E Thompson'.

W E Thompson  
Headmaster