



19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Year 11 students, Parents and Carers,

It seems a long time since 19<sup>th</sup> March, when we were told that Year 11 students would not be returning to school, nor completing GCSE exams. During these unprecedented times, we recognise just how difficult this must have been for students and what mixed emotions it must have raised. With this week marking what would have been the formal end to a summer term of GCSE exams, it seemed timely to make contact. Our Year 11s remain in our thoughts and I wanted to let you know about some of the things we've been thinking about.

In respect of GCSEs, the government has been very clear that no student should be disadvantaged by not being able to sit exams in the summer of 2020. You may be aware that instead, schools have been asked to produce Centre Assessed Grades. At Maidenhill, we have adopted a thorough, fair and robust approach to doing this and have taken into consideration a range of information and evidence. This process is now complete and exam boards are now moderating and standardising the grades across the country; grades are therefore still subject to change. We want to reassure students that grades awarded in the summer will have equal weighting as grades awarded in any other year. The government is clear that they will be treated the same by universities, colleges and employers in the years to come.

The government has announced that GCSE results day will remain as Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August. It is our intention to manage results day in a similar way to previous years with students collecting their results from school in person. It is likely that we will need to stagger students arriving on site as we continue to ensure our current practice of social distancing. I will write to you nearer the time with more up to date information about the day once we receive up-to-date guidelines from the government. We are looking forward to seeing Year 11 students on GCSE results day.

We are aware that many colleges have been in touch with students about their Post 16 plans, and would encourage anyone who has not secured a place or heard from their chosen provider, to contact them as soon as possible. Many are setting home learning tasks and activities ahead of their formal courses starting and we would urge students take time to complete any preparatory work as necessary.

During students' final assembly I promised that, there would be some form of reunion just as soon as it was practically possible. We know many students were due to attend the Leavers' Ball and will be disappointed that this had to be cancelled. At the time of writing, and with social distancing measures still very much in place, we are not yet able to plan future events that involve larger gatherings. However, we will keep our promise and ensure that Year 11 students have the opportunity to meet together as a year group and, as soon as we're given a green light to be able to get together, we will write to you and let you know what is planned.

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I would like to thank each and every student, parent and carer for their understanding and support of Maidenhill during this time. I reiterate that despite our Year 11s not being able to complete their formal education with us in a way that they and we had expected, they remain in the thoughts and conversations of staff and current students.

With our very best wishes. Stay safe and take care of yourselves and each other.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Mrs P Wilson  
Head Teacher