

Our ref HHU/dg

11 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As always, this has been an extremely busy term with lots of activities and events taking place. Each week stories are posted on the website ([www.thederbyhighschool.co.uk](http://www.thederbyhighschool.co.uk)) and tweeted on @derbyhighbury – why not follow us on Twitter? We have put a compilation of the best stories in the form of a newsletter for you to read on the website under the parent section (see letters and downloads).

Over the last few weeks, Year 11 students have been sitting their mock examinations. I would like to acknowledge the manner in which they have conducted themselves throughout the exam period in school – we could not be more proud of their attitude and behaviour. This year group is the first to take all the new GCSEs introduced by the government. The examinations now have more demanding content and questions and for many subjects students will only be assessed by terminal examinations. On the back of this letter is more information from Ofqual on the changes to the examination system that I would advise you to read to ensure that you are familiar with the changes in place.

One of our key school priorities this year is to increase parental engagement with the school. We have held two Parent Voice meetings this term and we are delighted that the number of parents attending continues to rise. This is a great way to discuss and inform school policies. The next meeting is on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm**. Next week, on the **21st December** is our **Winter Wonderland** performance at **7pm**. Please join us from 6pm at our Pop-up Community Café run by some of our parents.

Other events next term I would like to draw to your attention include:-

**Safeguarding Saturday – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (9am – 11.30am)** – please come along to hear about current issues that affect young people and parents. We have a number of professionals leading workshops and they will provide practical advice and support for parents and carers on areas such as social media and internet safety.

**Our House – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018** – following the success of last year's show we bring you Our House based around the music of Madness. As in previous years, the school will close early on the last day of term. Students will be dismissed from 1.20pm. Please note that school bus services will not be available at this time.

**The Spring term commences on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

It only remains for me to wish you all well at this festive time of the year. I hope you have a good break with family and friends.

Yours sincerely,



**MS C H HUBERT**  
Headteacher



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**Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades**

- 9** GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- 8** New GCSE content will be more challenging.
- 7** Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A\*s.
- 6** English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.
- 5** Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.
- 4** The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- 3** In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.
- 2** Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.
- 1** You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A\* to G scale in the infographic on the right.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
4	E
3	F
2	G
1	U