



Dear Student,

I hope you are well and have not missed your school, friends, and teachers too much. I have missed having you around and seeing you each day to have a chat or even just to say hello! and my colleagues have also missed you and teaching you face to face. It is frustrating that the closure of our school has disrupted your education in the way that it has, and I appreciate that the continuity of your learning in Year 12 has been somewhat disrupted, especially as you were due to sit summer examinations. I can assure you that your teachers have been working extremely hard to enter a Centre Assessment Grade for each of the subjects you are studying that best reflects your ability. To help you understand how your performance in each subject course has been assessed and what options you now have if you want to access Level 3 learning I have attached a Question and Answer table to the back of this letter.

If you have applied or wish to apply to join our Sixth Form and you are successful in achieving the grades required to do so, then I intend to make your transition into Year 13 to continue your education as smooth as possible considering the challenging times the Breda community will face with implementing measures to protect you and your families from COVID 19. The Education Minister, Peter Weir, confirmed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 that the Department of Education for Northern Ireland has started its **Restart Programme** which will put in place the detailed arrangements which will enable a safe reopening of schools. The Education Minister said;

*"Subject to medical guidance and safety it would be my aim to see a phased reopening of schools, beginning with a limited provision for key cohort years in late August, followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September. This will not be a return to school as it was prior to COVID 19, but rather a new normal reflective of social distancing and a medically safe regime. For all pupils it will involve a schedule with a mixture of school attendance and remote learning at home."*

Breda Academy will adhere with the set guidelines and I will inform returning Year 12 students how these will be implemented in our school setting. Year 12 students entering our Sixth Form will receive a Welcome Pack outlining your attendance at school schedule, 'blended' learning guidance (in school and at home) and possible changes to our normal school routine including school bus timetables.

I wish you an enjoyable and safe summer break and very much look forward to seeing you again on the 20<sup>th</sup> August when you collect the results for your GCSE and Level 2 course qualifications.

Yours sincerely

**Mr P Perry - Acting Principal**





## YEAR 12 SUMMER EXAMS 2020 Q & A

<b>Will I receive GCSE and Level 2 results this August?</b>	Yes, Year 12 Results Day takes place this Summer on <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020</b> . The school will be open on that day from 9.30 to allow students to collect results from the Assembly Hall.
<b>How will Exam Boards (e.g. CCEA, Pearson, OCN) be able to award GCSE/Level 2 results?</b>	Year 12 students were due to sit the majority of their GCSE examinations in May/June this year. These were cancelled and Exam Boards put in place new procedures for the awarding of results and asked each school in the UK to submit Centre Assessment Grades.
<b>What is a Centre Assessment Grade?</b>	The school has submitted Centre Assessment Grades to Exam Boards. Subject teachers used a range of internal evidence to allocate these Centre Assessment Grades to students. The Centre Assessment Grades are a considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved in each qualification course this year.
<b>Can I ask for my Centre Assessment Grades now?</b>	Guidance from the Education Minister is very clear in stating that Centre Assessment Grades must <u>not</u> be shared with students or their families by the school. These grades are confidential and have now been sent to Exam Boards for standardisation to take place.
<b>What is Exam Board standardisation?</b>	Exam Boards will use a statistical model to standardise grades in each subject. This means that the Centre Assessment Grades which have been sent by the school can be changed by the Exam Boards when they are deciding on the final results.
<b>Are the results I receive this August official GCSE/Level 2 results?</b>	The GCSE/Level 2 results you receive on Results Day this August have been awarded by Exam Boards and are official GCSE/Level 2 results.
<b>What if I am unhappy with the results that the Exam Boards have awarded me?</b>	A Year 12 student will be able to sit a CCEA GCSE exam paper or papers (most likely in the Summer of 2021) if they are unhappy with the result awarded this August. A Year 12 student who wishes to resit a CCEA exam must register their interest with the school by <b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> . The school will liaise with the student as and when CCEA releases information about resits. There is no opportunity to resit the coursework-based courses; BTEC, OCN and Occupational Studies.
<b>Is there an option to repeat Year 12?</b>	There is no option available to repeat Year 12.
<b>What are my options for September 2020?</b>	Year 12 marks the end of formal schooling in Northern Ireland. There are several post-16 options open to Year 12 students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sixth Form at Breda Academy</li> <li>b) Sixth Form at another school</li> <li>c) Post-16 College (e.g. Belfast Met, People 1<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li>d) Employment</li> </ul> Year 12 students have received Careers advice this year and should research all suitable options this June.
<b>What are the entry criteria for Sixth Form at Breda Academy?</b>	Sixth Form admissions will take place on Results Day in the Assembly Hall. The criteria for Sixth Form entry at Breda Academy is: <b>5 A* - C GCSE (or Level 2 equivalent) grades and a grade C in GCSE English Language</b>