

Headteacher: Mr Darren Randle

J/STAFF/SLT/AS/Letts/EidLett/jca

31st January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child is now in the most important year of their education and the GCSE examinations they are about to sit could define the rest of their lives. It has come to our attention that Eid al-Fitr is due to take place on Thursday 14th June or Friday 15th June. Unfortunately, exam boards have not taken this into account when planning dates for the GCSE examinations. As a school we have always supported pupils in celebrating religious festivals such as Eid and are extremely disappointed with the decision made by each exam board to place exams on these dates. We have made contact with the Joint Council for Qualifications and professional supporting unions to ask for advice and guidance. The stance taken by the exam boards is that if pupils do not attend examinations for whatever reason they will achieve zero marks for that paper.

The exams timetabled for Thursday 14th June are Spanish Writing exam in the morning along with the Food Preparation and Nutrition in the afternoon. Every pupil in Year 11 will have their Physics Paper 2 examination in the morning on Friday 15th June. As you can appreciate, we do not agree with the decisions made for the timing of these exams but the decision is out of our hands. However, what we can do is to allow those pupils celebrating Eid to leave school after the Physics paper. This letter is to make you aware of the situation and give you an understanding of the risks involved with pupils not sitting the exams even though it is an extremely important religious event.

With Eid falling when it does we are also aware that Ramadan will have been taking place and that pupils will be fasting whilst taking their GCSE exams. As always we will support every pupil that is fasting and when necessary allow them rooms to use during lunch times when fasting.

If you have any further questions about the exams for your child or concerns about the information above please do not hesitate to contact me by email at asmale@hollingworthacademy.co.uk or by phone on 01706 292800.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Smale
Assistant Headteacher



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