



**MATTHEW MOSS
HIGH SCHOOL**
Learning for Life

1st May 2019

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 may take place on Wednesday 5th June 2019. 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. The stance taken by the exam boards is that if learners do not attend examinations for whatever reason they will achieve zero marks for that paper.

The exam timetabled for Wednesday 5th June 2019 is Geography at 1.30pm in the afternoon. 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. 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 learners will be fasting whilst taking their GCSE exams. We are aware that there are religious exceptions on personal or medical grounds which mean that many people will not fast for all or part of Ramadan, however, those that do will be more susceptible to tiredness, lack of concentration, low energy, dehydration and reduced memory. We are very keen to support the religious observance of learners and will do everything possible to help. It is our understanding that learners may choose to break their fast and make it up later, especially on the day of their examinations and learners should always tell a member of staff if they feel dizzy or unwell. As always we will support every learner that is fasting and when necessary allow them rooms to use during lunch time when fasting.

If there is any more we can do to support your child at this important time or have any concerns about this information, please do not hesitate to contact school by email at admin@mmhs.co.uk or by phone on 01706 632910.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Moorhouse
Headteacher

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