



RUSKIN SPORTS COLLEGE

a Community High School

Ruskin Road • Crewe • Cheshire • CW2 7JT
Telephone 01270 560514 • Fax 01270 650248

Headteacher ~ Mrs E S Brett BA(hons) MA(Ed)

Our Ref: HTSA/letters/BRE/JOD

Date: 16th October 2013

Dear Students and Parent/Carers,

I am writing to you because I am sure you might have heard the publicity around a recent announcement from Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Education. On Monday, it was revealed that, with immediate effect, Mr Gove is taking action to try and reduce the number of times students retake public examinations such as the GCSE in Maths and English. From today, only the **first result** students obtain will be counted in a school's performance tables. The announcement makes it clear, however, that students themselves will **not** be affected:

If schools are confident that pupils will achieve well even when entered early and that early entry is therefore in the interests of the pupil, they should not need to make any changes to entry plans. Any pupil who does enter early from this point on will still be able to re-take if they receive a disappointing result. That result will not count towards the performance tables for their school, even if it is an improvement on their earlier entry, but pupils will still be able to use their best result to support applications to further and higher education, or for employment.

The full announcement can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-early-entry-at-gcse>

At Ruskin, we feel we have to put the needs of our students first. Our current Year 11 students have been preparing to take 'early entry' exams in November and we feel that it would be detrimental to change our plans at this very late stage. Students are working towards the exams and are mentally preparing themselves, too. To backtrack now because we are fearful about the published league tables for our school would be wrong.

Following discussions with senior colleagues and the Governing Body, I have decided that we will continue to prepare students for the November exam and, where necessary, enter them to take the exam again in June. We believe this will give the greatest number of students the best possible chance of achieving the highest grade, which can only benefit them as they move to college or employment post 16. I recognise that this may have potentially serious and public implications for our standings in the 2015 performance tables but I firmly believe that we have to put students first and league tables second and I honestly feel that the parent body will support this.

Please, feel free to ring me or to email me at brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk if you would like to discuss any aspect of this situation.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely

E. S. Brett

E S Brett
Headteacher

