

07/01/2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Year 11 Information**

I understand how unsettling the past few days have been for you and your child but I hope both you and your family have been keeping safe during these uncertain times that we are facing.

The Education Secretary has informed schools that GCSE exams will not take place in the summer as normal. Teachers' estimated grades will be used as a replacement. However, the details about how these grades will be awarded has not yet been published. The government is working with Ofqual, the examination regulators, to create a fair process to ensure students are not disadvantaged because of this. We will keep you updated on this once we know more.

In light of this news, our message to students is very clear: **please continue to engage in all online learning.** It is vital that your child continues to engage with their subjects whilst at home to ensure they get the best grades possible, however these may be awarded. I am delighted with how our Year 11 students have engaged in the online learning process thus far. 90% of students have regularly participated in our live Microsoft Teams lessons and completed the supplementary work on Google Classrooms. This makes me incredibly proud and demonstrates what excellent resilience our pupils have.

Mock exams that were due to take place in March will move to after Easter. We will inform parents of the exact date in due course. These mock exams will still need to take place so that our teachers can evaluate your child's grades, analyse strengths and identify areas to improve. Your child now has more time to revise for these mocks, ensuring they have completed all the work required before sitting them. Any work completed in class and for homework after the mock exams will also be used as evidence for the Centre Assessed Grades we will be submitting for your child in the summer.

We have taken the decision to postpone our planned virtual parents evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2021, until we have more information from the government regarding the grading of students. This will then allow us to have a parents' evening that will help support your child further.

Finally, we want to reassure you that the school will do everything we can to support your child in getting the grades they deserve and have worked so hard for up to this point. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and support. As ever, if you have any further queries, do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Graham (Head of Year 11)

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