

Executive Principal: Mrs Ruth Holden, MA, NPQH

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students, Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to send you my good wishes to you and your families and I hope you are all in good health.

As you will know, the Prime Minister announced last night that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this Summer in the normal way. In the coming days we will get details of what will replace them, but it seems reasonable to expect students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance **using class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence.**

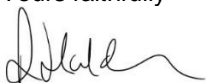
I am aware of the shock and disappointment that this news might bring, especially as we have been told consistently that exams would happen this year, and we had planned on this basis. However, I would urge you all to consider these three points, as they should provide some reassurance:

1. **Your hard work will still be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. On the contrary, the new system will make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.
2. **Your eventual results will be distinguishable from real exams.** In the long run, it will not matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE, Btec and A Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
3. **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools. If any parent or students were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal and take follow – up exams in the Autumn, just as there was last time.

I know it is asking a lot of you, on top of what you have been through already, but you must **take these points on board and keep going.** You might feel worried and even disappointed that exams are not going to take place this year, anyone would in your position, but in the long run you will be absolutely fine. Your teachers and the staff at the school, will guide you and support you through the remainder of this Academic year, and we will do so for Year 11 students when you stay with us into the Sixth Form in Year 12, and for Year 13 students with your transition to the next stage in your life, be that University or another route.

Please therefore can I ask, that you attend all of your online lessons, keep working hard, and know that every piece of work you complete will still make a difference.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Ruth Holden
Executive Principal

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