



14 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 Exam Arrangement Update

You will know that the Minister for Education, Gavin Williamson, made a statement in the House of Commons last week stating that the GCSE exams scheduled for the summer will not go ahead. In the same announcements he stated that students' GCSE results will be decided by teacher assessed grades.

Many students and their families are rightly disappointed that they will not have the opportunity to demonstrate the outstanding progress and achievement they have made by sitting a formal examination. A minority of students may consider the announcement a 'free pass', it is of course anything but!

The alternative assessment arrangement where each subject teacher is asked to submit a grade for each student they teach was the method used last year and internal protocols ensured it was a rigorous and fair process. This year, as the announcement is earlier, we expect the process to be even more complex and we can be pretty certain that any grade submitted will need to be supported by some form of evidence portfolio. In fact yesterday it was announced that the Government, with Ofqual, are currently exploring the idea of 'mini' exams. Of course as soon as we have exact details we will obviously share them with you.

All these announcements and potential changes of message and direction mean that it is imperative that your son continues to attend lessons by following his timetable, logging on to each lesson, completing and submitting the work set. Teachers want and need to be able to complete a portfolio detailing a range of work submitted that reflects the effort and achievement your son has put into his studies over the last five years, and if exams are to be sat after all your son needs to have all the knowledge and practise possible.

We have tried to ensure that all students in Year 11 have access to remote learning. If for some reason your son cannot access google classroom please do get in touch so we can provide the appropriate support to get him online.

As aforementioned we will continue to share any concrete updates with you as soon as we receive them.

Yours sincerely

Gill Ansell
Assistant Principal