

12 January 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Parents/Carers,

### The Summer Examination Series – GCSEs and A Levels

I do hope that you and your families are well and that the move to remote learning has gone smoothly. In the first few days of this term, student engagement for both Year 11 and 13 students has been really high, so thank you for supporting this from home.

You will be aware that the government has stated that it is unfair for all examinations to take place this summer. We know that this will be a real disappointment to our students and we all share in this. (Currently, we are not sure about the status of the vocational exams or module tests.)

We cannot, at this stage, let you know how final GCSE and A level grades will be awarded but, based on the Secretary of State for Education's announcement in the House of Commons on 6 January, we know that there will be a system of teacher-assessed grades. There will be no return to using an algorithm which caused such chaos last summer. The examination boards and Ofqual (the examinations regulator) are currently working on guidance, and as soon as we are aware of this, there will be a further communication. We will ensure that the guidance is applied fairly and honestly to ensure that students who work hard are not unfairly affected by this situation.

At this stage, it is vital that students remain fully engaged in remote learning by accessing live lessons, showing evidence of their class work, responding to feedback on Teams, and completing their PPA (homework). Indeed, this is a golden opportunity for students to use their time wisely and remain motivated to complete all work to the very best of their ability.

Whatever grading system is used, students will gain results that will be in-line with previous years, and they will not be disadvantaged compared to previous cohorts. The main drive will be to ensure that students can progress to the next stage of education or training as normal. So, each individual student should still set their ambitions for the future and work towards achieving them.

Our teachers are working hard to complete the marking of the December assessments and feedback will be provided in the near future. This will support students in identifying gaps in their knowledge and understanding. Year 13 students should be in contact with Mr Doyle regarding any queries relating to their next steps or university applications. Year 11 students are encouraged to apply for our [Sixth Form](#) following the feedback from the December assessments.

Thank you for your continued support. We all hope to see our students back in school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



**Euan Ferguson**  
Headteacher