

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you on the 3rd of December regarding the support in place for our students in the 2021 exams, but you will no doubt have seen the recent news that the Department for Education (DfE) has announced that the Summer 2021 exams will not take place as planned. This is a great disappointment as our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard and we are confident in the progress they are demonstrating. However, the cancellation takes into account the very different experiences that students have had across the country.

The DfE has announced that final grades will be awarded based on the assessment of their teachers. However, as yet, the details for this process, including moderation and standardisation have not been confirmed. Early suggestions from the DfE are that the process is being worked on and they hope to provide further details in late February. In the meantime, it is very important that students continue to work hard and complete their courses, as if they were sitting the final exams. They still may be required to complete some formal assessment tasks when they return to school to help teachers generate grades and allow moderation to take place between students and schools.

The mock exams that were due to take place over the next few weeks are, of course, now not taking place. It will depend very much on when the students can return to school as to if, or when, these assessments will take place. It may not be appropriate to conduct full mock exams and we will await further guidance as to the kind of assessment tasks that centres may be required to conduct. Again, this depends upon when students can return to school.

There is little official guidance so far, or detail regarding exam grading, but the link below will take you to the latest announcement by the Education Secretary if you find it useful. One thing that the government has assured schools is that computer algorithms will not be a part of the process for determining GCSE grades. We welcome this commitment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-statement-to-parliament-on-national-lockdown>

We will continue to update you as and when more information becomes available. We want to support all of our students in these difficult times and help them make the journey from Year 11 into Year 12. Mr Henman and the 6th Form team are making plans to interview all those who have already applied for 6th Form courses and he will be in touch with you soon.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Peter Hudson
Vice Principal