

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Sixth Form Students, Parents and Carers

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. I am sure many Sixth Form students will be disappointed as they have been working extremely hard and we had made good use of the Autumn Term. 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. **Students may well 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 not now taking place. It will depend very much on when the students can return to school as to if, or when, these assessments would 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.

At present, 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 A-Level grades. We welcome this commitment.

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

My message to students now is do all you can to keep up with work and demonstrate your potential during this difficult period at home. Make sure that you establish a working routine similar to your timetable in school. Staff have been asked to offer some live interaction to their classes, so please make sure that you are available for these sessions. Remember you are still doing full time Level 3 courses, **part time work should not be taken in the school day.**

Continued on next page....

We will update you as and when more information becomes available. We also want to support all of our students in these difficult times and continue to help them take their Next Step into the world of work, apprenticeships or higher education. With this in mind, please be aware that the deadline for university entries has been extended from 15<sup>th</sup> January to the 29<sup>th</sup> January. Unifrog and our careers service is available at any time to students; don't hesitate to use them. Our "Next Step" Google Classrooms are the first port of call for accessing these service.

Hopefully we will be back together soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Henman', written in a cursive style.

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