



7th January 2021

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 11 and Year 13 Students

You will have seen yesterday that Mr Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has announced that students in Year 11 and Year 13 will not sit examinations and that grades will be awarded based on teacher assessments. There is an enormous void in the information that we have around this; we anticipate that we will be given further information and guidance over the next few days and weeks. We entirely appreciate that this will be a stressful time for our students in these year groups, with a whole mixture of thoughts and emotions being felt individually and collectively.

Whilst we do not know the format or the process for allocating these grades, we do know that we successfully managed last year's process and that we have an excellent knowledge and understanding of our students. We wish to identify this to provide you with reassurance that we will, of course, complete whichever process is required of us, with the very best interests of our children at the heart of all that we do.

We will be in contact with further information in due course as we receive clarification on the situation. As stated above, we are unable to put a time frame on this so please may we ask for your patience and as soon as we are able to we will provide appropriate updates.

With regard to the current work and our students' attitude towards their studies, we have been delighted with the start to remote learning. Now is the time for us to collectively ensure that all of our students continue to work hard and engage with all advice, guidance and learning. We continue to work on the basis that the continuing development and learning of our students will be reflected in the grades that we award. This is reiterated in a statement from OfQual who state that: *Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, or face-to-face for those students still going in to their school, college or training provider. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications.*

We will be reiterating these messages to our students in the next day or two in assemblies.

Many thanks for your understanding; we will be in contact again in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr Warwood
Associate Headteacher



