



8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

YEAR 11 & 13 - SUMMER EXAMS 2021

It was announced this week that GCSE and A Level examinations will not be taking place this summer in the normal way. At this stage schools have been provided with no further information on what this will look like, nor is their clarity on those students taking vocational exams. We hope we will receive details of what will replace them shortly, but it seems reasonable to expect that students will receive grades based on a similar system to the summer of 2020. This involved teachers assessing student performance using class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence.

We are aware of the disappointment this news will bring. The Government had consistently told students, parents/carers and teachers that exams would take place this year, and we all planned on that basis. However, once the initial shock has worn off, we would urge you all to consider these points as they should provide some reassurance:

1. The hard work by your child will still be recognised. The efforts they have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will not be wasted. The new system will ensure your child's efforts are reflected in their final grade.
2. The eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. In the long term, it will not matter if grades are given using this system. Your child will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way, employers will still be able to use these results in recruitment. The value of GCSE and A Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. It is hoped that none of your child's ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
3. The new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. These grades will be moderated by 'Ofqual' the exams regulator who will seek to ensure that results are consistent within and between schools and are fair and balanced across the country.
4. If any parent or student is disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal.

Your child must continue to work as hard as possible to ensure that the school can provide the evidence required to justify the grade awarded. Possible sources may include, but are not limited to:

- Examination grades achieved in interim and mock assessments over time, including assessments yet to take place.
- Work submitted before the lockdown and currently on line.
- Attendance at remote lessons.

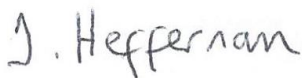
Students who are not logging onto 'Live' lessons remotely in Year 11 have already been contacted and are expected to be **on site** logging onto the remote lessons from **Monday 11th January**. This process will be in place for Year 13 shortly.

Please ensure that your child continues to attend all their virtual school lessons, completes and submits their work and knows that every piece of their work will still make a difference. Encourage them to work as hard as they can so the school can justly reward their efforts.

We know it is asking a lot of your child on top of everything they and their families have already been through, but we urge you to take these points on board and encourage your child to continue in their efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms J Heffernan
Headteacher



Mr O'Donoghue
Associate Deputy Headteacher



Mr T Read
Assistant Headteacher