

1st March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are well and the week is going well. I cannot tell you how pleased we are that all our students will be joining us in school once again in a very short time.

I am writing to you today to inform you about our initial steps in response to the announcements on 25th February from the Department for Education and Ofqual, outlining their plans for the awarding of this year's A Levels, GCSEs and other qualifications.

You can find out more about the national arrangements in this [summary](#) for students from the DfE and this [infographic](#) from Ofqual.

We will now need to make our plans about how to assess students fairly and accurately within this framework. We will identify a portfolio of assessment evidence for each subject, some of which is likely to come from assignments already completed, but much of which is still to be produced. We await information from the exam boards about exactly what evidence is permitted, but it is likely to include any previous or upcoming mock exams, any coursework in the subject and the widely publicised exam-style questions, which will be provided by exam boards by Easter. We anticipate students answering a selection of these questions in secure conditions next term, and we will choose the ones which will reflect the parts of the course which were covered with least disruption and which we believe will give students the fairest opportunity to excel.

The most pressing issue for Year 13 students is their mock exams commencing on March 8th 2021. We will issue a grade for the mocks, but I must stress that it will only be an indication of how well the student has performed in that particular assessment. The mock grade itself will play no role in the final awarding of the qualification. Instead, the raw result from the mock will be combined with other assessment evidence to produce a final score, which will then be used to produce a grade. The final grade could be higher or lower than the result achieved in the mock exam.

I am well aware that our students are in a very difficult situation and I can only imagine that they must be feeling a lot of anxiety. We want them to get the success they deserve so they can go on to fulfil their ambitions, and I hope that this information helps by providing a bit more certainty. There are still many questions which they will want answered, most notably about exactly what evidence will be used in each subject to determine their grade. We will make this decision when we have further instructions from the exam boards, and will communicate it to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, the message to students remains that their ongoing work is still important, that everything is still to play for and that their effort now and over the next few weeks and months will pay off.



Thank you for all your understanding and for everything you are doing to support the education of your son/daughter. Please pass on my best wishes to them and let them know that we are very much looking forward to having them back in school from 8th March.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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