

5 January 2021

Dear Year 11/13 student

Re. External Exams

As you know, the Prime Minister announced yesterday that GCSE and A-level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way, but has not yet given details of how grades will be awarded. Having had to deal with so much over the last few months, we understand that this new uncertainty might have left you feeling frustrated, angry, worried and a variety of other emotions. We share many of those feelings with you and for you.

Although all of this must seem disappointing for all of you who have been working so hard, we do not want you to worry unnecessarily, and feel it is important that you are aware of the following:

- Firstly, the government has already committed to grading exams more generously this year, so that the actual number of grades awarded is similar to those received by students in 2020. Your hard work will therefore be recognised, along with what you have learned **and will continue to learn over the coming weeks.**
- Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from the results you would have received had you sat your exams. The value of GCSE and A-level grades is not being altered and exam certificates will look exactly the same as in any other year. You will be able to go on to sixth form, college, apprenticeships, employment or university. Your ambitions for the future should not be affected by this decision.
- Although we know that you will receive grades for the courses you have studied, we have not been told how this will happen, and it is clear the government is still working on this. Please do not worry that you will simply be given the grade that you achieved in a mock exam or a test that you have already taken; this will not happen. It might be that there is some form of slimmed down external assessment, or it might be that schools are asked to provide a centre assessed grade, as was the case last year. Whatever happens, it is really important, although we recognise it is asking a lot at the moment, that you continue to work hard and make good progress with your studies.

We will, write to you as soon as we have more details. In the meantime, please continue with your online lessons, keep working hard and be assured that all the work you do now will be recognised, and in any eventuality, will be invaluable in preparing you for your future.

With very best wishes,



Mr Williman
Headteacher