



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well. Our expectations regarding online learning have developed since the first lockdown and initial feedback from parents and carers has been very positive regarding the provision. Teachers have also been delighted by the work ethic and response to live online lessons from the Year 11 students; their attendance, engagement and effort has been commendable.

Further to my previous letter, I wanted to clarify the current position regarding the awarding of grades as a result of the cancellation of GCSE examinations this summer. We are still awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) about how grades will be awarded but we do know it will be based on some kind of teacher assessment and once we know more about what this will involve I will let you know. This is actually really encouraging, it gives your daughter a chance to shine and continue to display to her teacher her abilities in the subject.

We have taken the decision to postpone the mock exams that were scheduled in February but we may reinstate some form of mock at a later date once we know more from the DfE. In order to ensure that all students are ready for whatever assessment is carried out I have written to your daughter to stress the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic and outlined that she must do the following:

1. Attend all lessons, online and when back in school.
2. Complete all classwork and homework that is set.
3. Send work in for marking if a teacher has requested it – this might be used as evidence of your ability in the subject.
4. Ensure coursework is completed.
5. Continue to work to deadlines that are set.
6. Respond to feedback given by teachers and make the necessary improvements. Teachers will not be sharing grades with students going forward but will provide feedback on progress and actions for improvement. This is actually much more valuable.
7. Maintain a good sleeping routine, young brains need about nine hours of sleep to fully function at the level demanded at GCSE.

All teachers and pastoral staff are here to support Year 11 to ensure their success. If you have identified any IT issues or have concerns about your daughter's attendance and motivation at this time please contact myself or a member of our Year 11 pastoral team. I have reiterated to Year 11's that what they get out at the end of all of this is directly affected by what they put in and so we need them to continue to show that impressive standard of work and effort that was demonstrated last term to ensure every success.

Kind regards  
Mrs Durrett