

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Y11 & 13 Students,

Cc Y11 & Y13 Parents & Carers

The Prime Minister announced last night that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way. In the coming days we will get details of what will replace them, but it seems reasonable to expect students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. Please do not contact your teachers about predictions, mocks etc because at this moment we simply do not know what the grades will be based on, or how they will be assessed.

The government had consistently told students, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year, and we all planned on that basis. However, once the initial shock has worn off, be assured that I will be arguing on your behalf for the following three factors;

1. **Your hard work be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. We want the new system to make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.
2. **Your eventual results be indistinguishable from real exams.** In the long run, it won't matter that your grades came via this new system. You will be able to progress to our Sixth Form and University in the normal way, expected way if you meet the entry criteria. The value of your GCSE and A Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
3. **The new system be fair and balanced.** Grades should be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools. If any parent or student were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal and take a follow-up exam in the autumn, just as there was last time.

I know it is asking a lot of you, on top of everything you have been through already, but you must **take these points on board and keep going**. Today you will be shocked and disappointed – anyone would be in your position. But in the coming days you will process the news, and in the long run you will be absolutely fine. Your teachers have always been aware of this possibility and will guide and support you through the remainder of this year.

**For now, just turn up to all your online lessons, keep working hard, and know that every piece of work you complete will still make a difference.**

Take care

Mr M M J Devenney  
Headteacher