

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021



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Headteacher: Ms Helen Bridge BA MA

Dear Parent/Carer

### Year 11 and 13 Examinations

I am writing to you to update you regarding how grades will be awarded this year and what we will be doing to help your child to achieve the grades they are capable of.

Although no official guidance has been published yet (we are expecting an update on 22<sup>nd</sup> February), what is clear is that students will this year be awarded grades based on **evidence**.

We anticipate that this evidence will be based on:

- Coursework undertaken
- In-class assessments
- Controlled conditions tests
- Mock Exams

This year, in addition, it is expected that exam boards are going to assist us in gathering this evidence by providing us with unseen assessment materials. We await confirmation and detail about this.

Our aim is to ensure that every student has ample opportunity to provide this evidence.

We propose to do this in the following way:

- Students to be given a week to re-acclimatise when school re-opens to students of Years 11 and Year 13
- A 'mock' paper to be sat by each student in each subject. This paper will be sat in exam conditions and all access arrangements will be in place for those eligible to receive these. This paper will be decided by the Heads of each department. The aim of this paper will be to help students to focus their subsequent revision on areas they identify as weaknesses. Therefore, this will **not** be the final exam that students sit, but it would serve as a vital piece of evidence should any student perform unexpectedly badly in any subsequent exam.
- A full season of exams will be conducted in the summer term, between the start of term in April and June. We will timetable these in such a way to enable students to be able to prepare adequately for them. We do not yet know how many papers students will be sitting, as this will depend on what the exam boards produce, but we will ensure that there is enough evidence to provide the grades students deserve.

The timeline for these is as yet unclear, so the times below take into account the assumption that Years 11 & 13 are given the green light to return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March:

All students in Years 11 & 13 will have a week of 'reintegration' commencing **8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. The purpose of any mock exams is to ensure students are primed for any subsequent exam-board produced tests. Therefore, mocks will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and end on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Students will have the Easter holidays to revise and will be prepared by their teachers for any subsequent exams when they return to school on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Exam-board based assessments will commence in May and end in June. The precise dates will depend on the number of assessments provided, plus any other guidance relating to what we will be allowed to do to add to this evidence.

While there is some uncertainty relating to the precise nature of these assessments, what is certain is that students should be revising as there will be a need to **show** under exam conditions what they are capable of. As ever, we will support each and every student to perform to their best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Leahy', written in a cursive style.

John Leahy  
Assistant Headteacher, Achievement & Progress