



REF: ANS/KL

5 January 2021

Dear Year 11

Following the letter, I sent on Sunday, the situation has changed again. However, the sentiment of that letter has not, and I wanted to write to you all again to clarify our thoughts on the announcement.

The government have said that *'In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for **all** exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'*

There are two things to consider in this statement:

1. **Some** examinations may still take place and it is likely that those will be maths and English
2. Alternative arrangements may mean that we use class and homework, course work, AW1 assessment results, **mock exam grades**, attendance and application to your remote learning, to support a Centre Assessed Grade.

**Although we will be unable to complete the planned mocks next Monday, we have postponed them until 22<sup>nd</sup> February**, the point we are due to return to face to face teaching after half term. It is therefore imperative that you do not give up and remember that everything you do has a purpose.

I am fully aware of the shock and disappointment that this new situation may bring. We are mindful that the constant changing of expectations and having to jump between face to face and remote learning may have an adverse effect on your mental well-being. Mr Bourne is planning to send out a survey soon to see how you are all coping. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any support – whether that be academic help or just for someone to talk to about it all. Keep checking the NDA Y11 Teams folder for information.

Once the gravity of the situation has sunk in, I would urge you all to consider these three points:

1. Your hard work will still be recognised. **None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted.** On the contrary, whatever system is put in place we will make sure this is fully reflected in your potential.
2. In the long run, it won't matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE and Level 3 qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. **None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.**

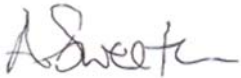
3. The new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools. If any parent or student were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect 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 all, on top of everything you have been through already, but you must take these points on board and keep going. Shock and disappointment will be processed and in the long run you will be absolutely fine. Your teachers were 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.**

Remember that your teachers, Year Manager and Senior Leadership Team are still available to support you, please contact us if you are struggling to access your learning at home due to a lack of quiet space or insufficient devices as we may be able to offer you additional support.

Thinking about you all and believing in each and every one of you.

Take care



**Mrs A Sweeten (Principal) and All NDA Staff**