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Our Ref: CAV/MER

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Students in Y13 and Y11.

After the Prime Minister's announcement last night *that it's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal, the education secretary will work with Ofqual to put alternative arrangements in place* we are all waiting for the details of what will replace the summer exams. It seems reasonable to expect that students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020, possibly with some form of exam as part of teachers' assessment.

We are aware of the shock and disappointment that this news brings. The government has consistently told students, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year and we have planned on that basis. While we know that things may feel uncertain at the moment, we can confirm the following reassurance:

1. **For any students with BTEC exams in the next couple of weeks**, our current understanding is that these will go ahead as planned.
2. **We continue to plan for mock exams.** The details and timings of these will be confirmed but it likely that they will take place at some point after this lockdown in March or April. The revision and information events planned for Y11 students and parents have been postponed and will be delivered later in the year.
3. **Your hard work will still be recognised.** None of the effort that you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. *It is vital that students continue to engage in their remote learning and seek help and support when needed.*
4. **You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University as planned.** The value of your GCSE and A-Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your future ambitions will be affected by this decision.
5. **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Grades will be awarded on objective evidence. Teachers will use a range of evidence including classwork, homework, coursework, mock exams, assessments to consider student grades. Any grades that your teachers set will follow Ofqual guidance and will be moderated carefully.

We are asking a lot of you all, to keep going on top of everything that you have been through but we know that our students and families are resilient and supportive of each other. Today we are all shocked and disappointed but in the coming days and in the long run we will make this work. Your teachers will continue to guide and support you and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs Veide
Deputy Principal

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