

5 January 2021

Dear Year 11 and Year 13

As you know, the Prime Minister announced yesterday that GCSE and A-level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way, but he has not yet given details of how grades will be awarded. Having had to deal with so much over the last few months, we understand that this new uncertainty might have left you feeling frustrated, angry, worried and a variety of other emotions. We share many of those feelings with you and for you.

Although all of this must seem disappointing for all of you who have been working so hard, we do not want you to worry unnecessarily and it is important we try and reassure you about what we do know at this stage:

- Firstly, the government has already committed to grading exams more generously this year, so that the actual number of grades awarded is similar to those received by students in 2020. Your hard work will therefore be recognised, along with what you have learned **and continue to learn over the coming weeks.**
- Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from the results you would have got had you sat the exams. The value of your GCSE and A-level grades is not being altered and your exam certificates will look exactly the same as any other year. You will all be able to go on to college, sixth form, apprenticeships, work or university. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
- Although we have been told that you will get grades for the courses you have studied, we have not been told how this will happen and it is clear the government is still working on that plan. Please do not worry that you will simply be given the grade you achieved in a mock exam or a test that you have already taken; this will not happen. It might be that there is form of slimmed down external assessment, or it might be that schools are asked to provide a centre-assessed grade, like last year. Either way, it is vital – although we appreciate it is asking a lot at the moment – that you continue to work hard and continue to make good progress with your studies.

We will, of course, write to you as soon as we hear more details. In the meantime, continue with your online lessons, keep working hard and be assured that all the work you do now will continue to be recognised as well as preparing you for your future studies.

With very best wishes,



Darren Andrews  
Head of Sixth Form



Scott Ratheram  
Executive Principal