

27 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

**RE: Year 11 and 13 Assessments**

As mentioned in my letter to you before Christmas, the intention and expectation of the government is that GCSE and A Level exams will go ahead as planned in the summer and we will focus our efforts on preparing students for these exams. I am writing to make you aware that the government have issued guidance for schools on contingency planning (in the unlikely event that GCSE and A level exams do not go ahead as planned) and, as part of these contingency measures, schools are being asked to take some actions.

The guidance currently states that schools must begin to collate evidence of what students have learned through in-school assessments in each subject. This evidence would then be used as part of any 'Teacher Assessed Grades' process, if required. We are planning to hold these assessments during the following dates:

- Assessment 1: 21 March – 1 April 2022
- Assessment 2: 3 May – 13 May 2022
- Assessment 3: 6 June – 17 June 2022

All of the current evidence points to exams going ahead as normal, and hopefully we will not need to hold all of these assessments. However, we may need to deliver all or some of them and will therefore plan for them accordingly. We have deliberately planned these assessments as late as possible, in order to ensure that we minimise disruption to normal lessons as we continue to prepare students for their summer examinations. We hope the timing of the assessments mean we will have a clearer picture of whether exams are going ahead as normal and can cancel some or all of these assessments if appropriate. The fact that the assessments are as late as possible also means that teachers will have the advance information from exam boards due to be published in February and will be able to direct students to appropriate revision. We are hopeful absence due to Covid-19 will be much lower in the spring term too.

I will write to you again after half term with the topics for each assessment so that students can focus their revision accordingly.

As always, many thanks for your continued support with this. I would like to reassure students that it is very likely that exams go ahead as normal and that the above assessments are purely part of the contingency plan we have been asked to put together by the government.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Evans  
Assistant Headteacher