



Our Ref: DJA|NMO|495

8th January 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware, the recent announcement from the Education Minister in Parliament declared that external examinations for the Summer of 2021 are cancelled and that they will be replacing them with an 'alternative' arrangement.

Gavin Williamson has stated that the consultation between OfQual and the Department for Education begins next week. We will not speculate on what that might look like, but as soon as we know that level of detail and how it impacts upon your child, we will inform you about the next steps.

We had an extremely robust system in place last year which worked well. This was based upon different elements of internally assessed data such as mock exams scores; formal and informal in class assessment including tests - amongst other pieces of work from the students.

We have prepared the ground since September 2020 and so we have some evidence collected in students' portfolios. However, we will need to demonstrate a range of evidence which covers the whole of the academic year in order to reflect progression. This means that it is critical that all Year 11 and Year 13 students (and any Year 12 students on one year courses or GCSE retakes) attend online lessons, participate and complete any assessments to the best of their ability.

Please emphasise how important it is for your child to do their very best in their online lessons from now until the academic year finishes. These lessons and the data from them will be used to support any assessment information that needs to be submitted to the exam boards later in the year.

Rest assured that we have gained a lot of experience from last year's process for centre assessed grades; we will do our absolute utmost to get the best results for your child, based on their aptitude.

Assessments for Years 10, 11 and 13 moving forward:

Year 10 and Year 13 students have been preparing for mock exams which were due to begin next week. As these exams cannot go ahead as planned, we will be sending home subject assessments that students can complete at home.

- **We would advise that these assessments are taken under exam conditions outlined on each paper.**
- **Upon completion, these assessments should be returned to school for teacher marking and assessment.**

We recognise that this approach does not replace the formal mock exams but it will provide teachers with an overview of where students are in their learning and enable them to provide sharply focused feedback. It will provide robust data for the students' assessment.

We are aiming to run formal mock exam sessions in School, for Years 13 and 11 students later in Term 4 (March / April time). If the time schedule and resources allow, we will try and run something similar for the Year 10 students.

Continued.....

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

Year 13

- Packs of Year 13 exam papers/assessments will be sent home via the post. This will also include papers that were due to be sat in class for the one year AS-courses.
- Students should complete the assessments and return to school within the given timeframe provided. This can be done by posting the completed assessments to school or alternatively, dropping off student work in the labelled boxes in the main reception.
- Teachers will assess and provide sharply focused feedback to students.
- Details of student performance on these assessments will be fed back to parents & carers via:
 - The next Year 13 report
 - The virtual Year 13 PCM (11.02.21.)

Year 11

- Details of Year 11 students' performance in the mock exams will be fed back to students via subject teachers.
- Students' performance in the mocks will be shared with parents & carers via:
 - The next Year 11 report (21.01.21.)
 - The virtual Year 11 PCM (28.01.21.)

Year 10

- Packs of Year 10 exam papers/assessments will be sent home via the post.
- Students should complete the assessments and return to school within the given timeframe provided. This can be done by posting the completed assessments to school or alternatively, dropping off student work in the labelled boxes in the main reception.
- Teachers will assess and provide sharply focused feedback to students.
- Details of student performance on these assessments will be fed back to parents & carers via the next Year 10 report.

Thank you for your continued support; it is incredibly valuable in these times.

Yours faithfully



David Alexander
Head Teacher

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