

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Update - Year 11

As you are aware, as part of the national lockdown schools have been told to close until the February break. As your child is currently in year 11, I thought it important that I write to you to alleviate concerns that you undoubtedly have.

The Education Secretary has said that there will be changes to the way that Year 11 GCSEs are assessed this year as students will not be sitting Summer exams. We are waiting for confirmation as to what that will look like and as soon as this information is confirmed I will write to you again. In the meantime I would like to share the following information with you:

- The school has already started to provide online learning since before the Christmas break, it is **important that your child continues to engage with their learning**.
- You can find information about online learning on the school website including a list of all Google Classroom codes.
- Staff are marking the mock exams so we will be able to share the results of these assessments - along with their predicted grades the week of 25th January.
- We are aware that some students were unable to complete a mock exam in some subjects due to self-isolating. We will use a range of evidence (for example, classwork and homework) to generate a fair assessment of the grade that they are currently working at.
- We are hoping that we will still be able to run a second run of mock exams in March which will give us additional accurate data to use.
- Teachers will also be asking students to complete extended pieces of work over the coming weeks and this can also be used as evidence to inform grades if we are asked for them from the government.

We don't yet know how the GCSE grades will be allocated to students this year, however it is crucial that your son/daughter completes all of the learning that teachers set so that we can collate as much evidence as possible if we are asked to submit centre assessed grades again. Whilst staff will use information from the recent mocks **this will not be the only data that is used. Staff will look at class work, homework, and online learning to use their professional expertise to allocate a fair and reflective grade if we are asked to do this by the government.**

Requests for predicted grades

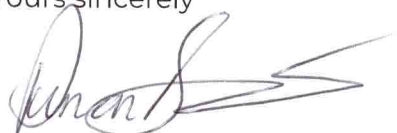
I also understand that many students will be applying for college - some colleges have asked for predicted grades. Before the holidays we contacted some colleges and received information that they will not be asking for predicted grades until after Christmas, one college said they would not be asking for predicted grades at all. If your son/daughter is applying and needs this information please let their chosen college know that this

information will be included with their mock results in January. We are happy to discuss this further with you if necessary.

This situation is not ideal - but it is important that we all work together to ensure that the education of your son/daughter is not affected.

Finally, on a personal note I would like to thank you for all of your support. This is a challenging time but as a school we are here to support you. Please stay safe and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school when we are able.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Bowyer', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mr Duncan Bowyer

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