



Ms Sue Lovecy, Head of School

Dear Parent / carer and year 11 students,

We will have to wait until just before the Easter holidays for the finer details concerning the support from the examination boards but I would like to give you all some dates and some idea of how the rest of your time in year 11 will pan out.

The most important detail is that we now know that your teachers will award your grades this year. I can tell you that your teachers will make a brilliant job of this and that you will receive the grades you deserve. Staff will need to provide accurate and extensive evidence for these grades and it is vital that you **attend school every day and work as hard as you can** until the final assessments are complete (including online learning until your return to school).

Below are some key points and dates:

- Your teachers will award your grade. It will be evidenced by tests and work already completed and a series of tests over the next few weeks.
- You will complete a minimum of 4 assessments per subject in the remaining weeks. Each subject area will give you a timetable of these assessments. They will be completed in classrooms in normal lesson times apart from some longer assessments in practical subjects.
- These assessments will be based on topics/skills you have already learned and in some subject's new areas which you will cover on your return to school.
- These assessments will be used as evidence for your final grade.
- Some departments may choose to set you the optional tests that have been devised by the examination boards but all subjects will set you a range of GCSE questions.
- There are some incredibly unhelpful headlines out there suggesting that staff bias because they 'like' or 'dislike' a student will affect the award of grades. Please be assured that we will award grades based on evidence, not personality. Knowing our students is an important part of the process but any award of a grade must have a clear evidence base behind it.
- As the Headteacher and the head of our examination centre it is my responsibility to sign off each and every grade, I will not do that unless I am confident in the evidence base behind it.
- Your assessments will be complete by the 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- From the 24<sup>th</sup> May until the 11<sup>th</sup> June there will be a new timetable based on preparation for next year and learning skills for life. You will receive more details about this later.
- After the 11<sup>th</sup> June your full time schooling will end and we will only require you to attend school if specifically called in.
- We hope to run a Prom on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> June. I will be giving you our plans in assembly on your return.

So the most important message for each of you now is that every year 11 student should take the opportunity to make the most of every day at school between now and the end of their GCSE courses.

There is a real opportunity now for each and every one of you to continue to complete assessments and work that will ensure your ability is accurately reflected in the grade awarded. We must work together and yes it will require hard work, focus and commitment.

Your future is in your hands. Looking forward to seeing you all next Wednesday. Stay safe, keep smiling

Sue Lovecy – Head of School