



21 March 2020

Dear Year 11 parents, and guardians,

I thought it might be helpful if I share with you the points from a letter I have received from one of the main exam boards. It explains the position announced yesterday on how pupils due to take public exams will be graded this year. As you can see, the details still need to be confirmed and we will be in touch with further details. I have taken the text below directly from the letter.

- *Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.*
- *Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.*
- *To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.*
- *Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.*
- *Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.*
- *The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.*
- *These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.*
- *We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.*
- *Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.*
- *There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.*

The advice I shared with the year 11s on Thursday was that they should first take some time to reflect on their new situation. The online learning we had planned for year 11 was based on supporting GCSE revision – this is no longer appropriate. In due course, I hope that they will start to think about preparing for their next step in education and developing other interests. There is a wealth of free online learning available to support this. We have already made preliminary contact with our main sixth form providers and we hope to provide guidance soon. Our teachers will be happy to support this preparation in any way they can.

With kind regards

Alison Mobbs

Principal