

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Subject: DfE exam announcement, changes to Year 11 classes and predicted grades**

Dear Parent/Carer,

DfE announcement

As I am sure you are aware, during the Prime Minister's address on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, whilst discussing the shift to remote learning it was stated that it would not be "possible or fair" for all exams to go ahead as planned this summer. We do not have any further details at this stage and are unlikely to have for some time. We will of course keep our students and families updated.

We understand that this announcement, along with the news of the shift to remote learning, will have led to anxiety amongst our Year 11 students. We would like to emphasise that we are here to support the students and their families through this challenging time. Our staff will continue to put student well-being at the forefront and this has been incorporated into our remote learning strategy.

It is crucial to stress that the announcement does not in any way detract from our core purpose: to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond. This means, in the context of Year 11, providing a high-quality remote learning experience for students and maintaining the expectations around rigorous completion of independent learning (revision, preparation, and practice). This approach will enable students to achieve the qualifications they have worked hard for over their time at INA, as well as creating a path and readiness for post-16 learning. Our message to Year 11 students and families is a simple one: we need to continue with the hard-work and complete our GCSE courses to the highest possible level.

Changes to Year 11 classes

For the new academic term there will be some changes to Year 11 classes. These changes will impact English, Maths and Science classes. Other classes (i.e. subjects students have selected as their options) will remain the same.

These changes are driven by the importance of grouping students by current attainment levels, thus allowing all students to access the required balance of support and challenge and ultimately maximising progress. A key benefit of changing the classes is to permit precision targeted intervention for key groups.

The recent attainment data from mock examinations has been used to determine the new groups. However, it must be stressed that a range of additional factors were also taken into consideration, including input from subject teachers and Heads of Departments on an individual student level and

pastoral knowledge of students. The rationale behind these changes will be communicated to students during an assembly on their return. During the period of remote learning, Year 11 Tutor Groups will remain as they were in the Autumn Term.

### Predicted grades

As you will be aware, on your son/daughter's report the only grades provided were the Mock Exam Grade and the Current Attainment Grade. This is because these are the grades that best reflect the students' up-to-date performance in each subject. These grades, along with teacher feedback on the students' gaps in knowledge, are the most important pieces of information.

It is important to stress that predicted grades have been not been provided for the following reason. There were several issues in the summer of 2020 where predicted grades differed from the centre assessed grades students received for their GCSE and A level results in 2020. As you can imagine this caused distress and upset for students and their families. Given the most recent announcements it is now evermore important that we do not share predicted grades until I am completely confident that they have been formulated in an accurate and robust manner.

We appreciate that some college applications will require predicted grades on application forms. Where this is this is the case, we are asking that students share their target grades. These target grades are what we expect students to achieve based on prior attainment at KS2 and are very aspirational. Consequently, we believe that these grades should be adequate for post-16 applications. If for any reason, there are issues with this please do not hesitate to contact the school, directing your query to Mr Ball using [info@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:info@isaacnewtonacademy.org). We will be emailing all parents/carers with a new report containing target grades over the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Haines', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Morgan Haines  
Principal