

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter reaches you and your families in strong health - body, mind and spirit. I am writing to all Year 11 and Year 13 families with the purpose of providing an update regarding GCSE/A-level examinations planned for this summer and spring term mock examinations.

First, it has been announced yesterday that public examinations for GCSE and A-level will not take place as planned. I appreciate that this creates a degree of uncertainty, anxiety and certainly disappointment that our students do not get the opportunity to complete their exams. The details for plans in the absence of public examinations will most likely reflect the processes established by the government/DFE last academic year. Thus, Year 11 and 13 students would be awarded Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs), which are essentially our professional prediction regarding the final grade we believe a student would have achieved, if the exams would have taken place. However, it must be noted that the finalised details are yet to be confirmed.

As a result of this announcement it is paramount that we continue to proceed forward as planned. Therefore, I wanted to stress the importance that our Year 11 and 13 students continue to engage in all subjects and complete their GCSE/A-level courses, with specific focus on the following.

- Ensure 100% attendance in online learning
- Continue to complete all independent learning to a high standard
- Complete any outstanding coursework that is required from subject areas.
- Remain fully committed to their revision schedules to maximise exam preparation and practice.

We will be planning to hold a second mock examination series if students return to the academy in the second part of the spring term to ensure we have up to date performance data to enable accurate CAGs to be formulated. Separate communication will be sent regarding our proposals for a second mock exam series. However, the caveat is that we cannot at this stage guarantee that students will return to complete this second set of mock examinations within an adequate time frame. Consequently, we will begin formulating additional plans to ensure we can capture additional assessment data for our Year 11 and 13 students for the CAGs process to be as robust as possible.

Ultimately, the recent government announcement require our Year 11 and 13 students to continue to work extremely hard, display excellent attendance to their virtual lessons, complete all work set and accumulate the knowledge required for their next step destinations and future pathways.

Lastly, I appreciate that these are challenging times, but I am confident that we can get through this by continuing to work together and strive forward together.

Yours sincerely



Morgan Haines  
Principal