



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Y11 Grade Awarding

You will, of course, be aware that there are no external examinations operating this year. It is for schools and teachers to award GCSE grades, and now that Ofqual have reported on their consultation we are in a position to update you on our intentions.

In making our plans, we have the following aims:

- To ensure students have the opportunity to maximise and achieve their potential in each subject they study
- To ensure preparation for the next phase of their education
- To collate and give opportunity to gather sufficient evidence to support a grade decision, and reflect the standard at which the student is performing
- To ensure grades awarded are fair and have parity across classes through internal quality assurance/moderation

Evidence for a student's standard of work will come from work already completed in some cases, and from planned opportunities in the coming weeks. In each subject, teachers are now collating what evidence is already secured, where that evidence might need to be improved and where there is still need to collect evidence from work that has not yet been assessed. For each subject, students will be provided with a Personal Learning and Assessment Checklist by the end of the term at the latest. It will outline to them, and you, the overview for each subject they are taking and help understand the tasks ahead. Teachers will then be providing opportunities in the coming weeks to revise the necessary topics and offer assessment opportunities for students to demonstrate their standard. The checklist will take the place of our normal detailed written report at this stage, although you will still receive a summary form tutor comment and grades reflecting 'attitude to learning'.

Students will be in school until 28<sup>th</sup> May. Over the time remaining, they have an excellent opportunity to secure their grades by working hard at their studies, and it is important that they are prepared to do this. The message of 'no exams' clearly does not mean 'no assessment'. Unlike last year, schools must provide evidence of the standard, not rely on potential. We want students to do well and will be making every effort to give them the opportunities to deliver the evidence required to award a fair grade.

I do believe Y11 students now have their destiny in their hands, in a system that is supportive of them and intended to create as low stress as possible. Like any other Y11 in year's past, hard work at this crucial stage will be well rewarded in results in the summer.

I wish all of our students well over the remaining time of their studies.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Dickenson,  
Headteacher