



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Year 11 & Year 13 Students

## Cancellation of GCSE & A Level Examinations

This afternoon, the Education Secretary [confirmed](#) that GCSE and A Level examinations will not take place this summer. Instead, he stated that he would put “trust in teachers” and use a form of “teacher-assessed grades... to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently”. The Department for Education will work with Ofqual, exam boards and teaching representatives to “fine-tune” the details – and we shall share further information when we have it.

So, what now? Whilst you may be tempted to think that there is no longer any point in maintaining your efforts because you are no longer working towards public exams, there are two very clear reasons why that view would be mistaken and potentially harmful towards your next steps.

1. If your teachers are going to be trusted to make judgments about the quality of your work and the grades that you deserve to have achieved, they are going to need evidence on which to base their evaluations. In the absence of Mock Exams or end of year exams last summer, they will need to use all other information they already have **and the information they will continue to collect** about your work over the coming weeks and months.
2. In addition, and really importantly, learning is not just for exams. We learn in order to develop our understanding and in order that we can progress (and also because it is enjoyable!). For you to successfully transition to the next phase of your education, whether that will be in College VI, another college, university or elsewhere, you need to have a strong foundation of prior learning.

Consequently, reducing your efforts now would not only give your teachers little reason to have confidence in your work (and may lead to you being awarded grades that are lower than you would have hoped for), you would also be hindering your chances of success at your next stage. I know that it may be difficult for you to maintain your level of motivation, but it is crucial that you continue to engage with all live lessons and all remote learning tasks set now, as well as when you hopefully return to regular lessons back at school at some point in the next few months.

Despite the disruption to your education over the last year, you have worked hard to overcome challenges and keep up with your studies. I know that you will be disappointed about the cancellation of exams, but I would want everyone to still be awarded the grades that they deserve and continue to prepare themselves effectively for their next steps. By continuing to work hard and taking pleasure in your learning, you will be best placed to achieve this.

I want to reassure you that your teachers remain committed to supporting you as best they can and to helping you succeed this year and into the future. When we have more information about how teacher assessment will work, we will share it with you. Stay positive.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey  
Principal