

6 January 2021

Re: Y11 and 13 Public Examinations

Dear Y11 and 13 Pupils, Parents and Carers.

On Monday 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced that GCSE and A-level exams will not take place in the summer in the normal way stating “this will mean it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements.”

Today, 6 January, the Government released the following statement. “Next steps on exam alternatives arrangements: students will not be asked to sit GCSE, AS and A-level exams this summer. The Education Secretary expects Ofqual to consider a teacher assessed system as a replacement for GCSEs, AS and A levels. A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students, while also giving them the opportunity to have their say.”

In the coming weeks we will likely receive more information as to what this will mean. Last year, the 2020 Y11 and 13 cohorts were awarded CAG (Centre Assessed Grades) using a combination of class and homework, coursework and mock exam results to form professional teacher judgements.

We are aware of the shock and disappointment this news will bring when the government had consistently told pupils, parents, carers and teachers that exams would happen this year. Once this initial shock has worn off we would encourage you to consider these three vital points to provide some reassurance

- 1) **Your hard work will be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. On the contrary, the new system will make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.
- 2) **Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams.** In the long run, it won't matter your grades came from an alternative system. You will still be able to progress into sixth form, college and university in the normal way and the value of your qualifications will not be lessened. None of your future ambitions will be affected by this decision.

3) **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Despite the national press headlines, the system that was formed was heavily moderated and standardised and as such we were 100% confident that the Centre Assessed Grades awarded were fair and appropriate. An appeal process was put in place but used sparingly as our justifications were strong based on the work completed by pupils.

We know it is asking a lot of you all, on top of everything you have been through already as a year group but you must take these points on board and keep going. You are likely taking this all in but once you have processed the information rest assured your teachers were well aware of this possibility and will guide and support you through whatever process is decided upon.

The key thing to understand is that until the end of the academic year, you must turn up to all your online lessons, complete the work to the best of your ability and know that every piece of work you complete will make a difference to your overall outcome.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Horn', written in a cursive style.

Mr G Horn
Principal