

26 February 2021

Dear Year 11, 12 and 13 Students

As we welcome you all back to school, I know that you will all have mixed emotions about what the future holds with regard to your examinations. You may feel anxious, worried and uncertainty. These are all normal emotions, but I want to reassure you about a few areas.

Firstly, you are brilliant. We are very proud of you. You have shown resilience, determination and diligence in engaging with your remote learning and throughout this pandemic. Many of you will have had to self-isolate, and, whilst this has been frustrating, you have still continued to ensure you keep up with your studies. These skills of positivity, perseverance and hard work will stand you in great stead for the future, alongside any examination results.

As you know, GCSEs and A Levels won't take place this summer in the normal fashion. Instead, there will be alternative arrangements. Your teachers will be asked to assess performance using classwork, homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence. There may also be some assessments to sit in the summer, although these will not be full GCSE or A Level exams.

I know that this will be incredibly disappointing for many of you. You will have wanted to sit your examinations to show what you can do. However, remember that this new system will still recognise your hard work. All of the work you have done with your teachers will be used to form a judgement on your grade. Make sure you keep going, for the work you have been brilliantly engaged with remotely, and the work you will be doing from 8 March to when you leave, will all count towards your grade. We need you to continue to work with your teachers, like you have been doing to work hard and complete all of your class work, independent study and assessments.

Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. In the long run, it won't matter that your grades were awarded a different way. You will still be able to go on to Sixth Form, University or an Apprenticeship. None of your ambitions for the future should be affected by this decision. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools.

Finally, and most importantly, please remember that exams are only one way of measuring knowledge. You attend school every day to learn many different aspects. Yes, to prepare you for exams, but also to prepare you for the future world. To help prepare you to be the responsible, kind, caring citizens we know you are and will continue to be. You come to school to learn how to be tolerant, empathetic, sensitive to other peoples' needs and have an open mind. These skills and attributes will stay with you all of your lives as well as your formal academic results.

Let's make these last few weeks count even more. We are incredibly proud of you and can't wait to see you all back soon.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher

cc Parents and carers