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Schools' Partnership

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

3rd March 2021

Dear Year 11 Students,

As a result of the disruption students have faced due to the pandemic this year, the government has decided that many exams and assessments cannot be held in a way which is fair.

The Department for Education has recently published two documents that set out what will happen next, you can read them at the following links: [General Qualifications decisions documents](#) and [Vocational and Technical Qualifications decisions documents](#).

For GCSEs teachers will assess the standard at which you are performing based only on what you have been taught so that your school or college can determine your grade. Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that your teachers have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Your teachers will be able to use evidence about your performance gathered throughout your course to inform their judgement. This might include work that you have already completed, internal/school exam results, homework, or in-class tests. Your teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers. Reasonable adjustments will be taken into account if you have a disability.

The arrangements for this year have been designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible, meaning your teachers' judgement of your work can take place as late in the academic year as is practical. It is important that you remain engaged in your learning and study for as long as possible so that your hard work can be considered in your grade.

Teachers will tell you which pieces of work will count towards your grade before your grade is submitted to the exam board. Whilst we await further guidance from the exam boards, so we can publish a detailed list of the evidence we will use, we wanted to let you know that the re-arranged exams that were due to take place from January 11th 2021 **will form part of the evidence for your final grade.**

These exams will now take place from **15th March** and a detailed timetable will be published later this week. We previously referred to these as 'Mock Exams' but since we know that we will be using them as evidence towards your final grade we will no longer refer to them in this way to avoid any confusion as to the importance of you doing your best in these exams. The same revision tasks and advice that was made available in December and January is still valid. If you are in any doubt as to what you should be revising, after reading the guidance attached to this letter, then please contact your subject teachers.

Please continue to work on your Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) work or coursework in Art, Music, Design and Drama. Teachers will mark your NEA and **it will** contribute to your



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overall grade, whether or not it has been completed. If you are in any doubt, then please contact your class teacher.

For BTEC courses teaching, learning and assessment will continue to take place, so you must ensure that you complete this work and anything that is missing. Your teachers will advise you about this. Internal assessment will continue, but any external exams will no longer take place. Your teachers will have to make a judgement about your overall grade based on the work you complete, just like GCSE exams.

For GCSE art, your grade will be based on your portfolio only, whether or not you have finished it. And for GCSE English language and GCSE French we have been asked to submit a separate grade or result for the spoken language tested, based on work that you have completed.

Exam boards will provide a package of support materials to schools, colleges, and other exam centres, including questions and mark schemes. They will also give your teachers advice about choosing topics, marking, and making grading judgements. Wherever possible, the exam boards will base this material on questions that have appeared in past exam papers. We will almost certainly use these materials, or similar, to run a set of assessments in the Summer term. You therefore need to continue working to the best of your ability.

Exam boards will put in place quality assurance arrangements to make sure consistent judgements are being made. Exam boards will also ask us to confirm that we have followed the correct procedure for determining grades.

Once we receive further information from awarding bodies, we will write to you again to confirm the arrangements. All of this is good news because it gives you plenty of opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of work that you are capable of. Your final grade will be based on work that you will have done (actual test marks) and not on any forecast grade or otherwise that we may have previously put in reports or recorded on tests and assessments.

Kind regards

Dr Wood

Deputy Headteacher