

Ref: Year 11/13 KWR

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### What do students in Years 11 and 13 need to do to get their qualifications this year?

It has been fantastic to welcome Year 11 and Year 13 back to school this week. Their resilience and ability to have a positive attitude has been noticeable and we want to continue to have high expectations of them as the year goes on. As students come back to school, our focus is on making sure students continue to learn and complete their course. We want to make sure we cover the content in the syllabus and prepare them fully for the next stage of their education. This means that lessons and learning will carry on as normal. At this stage in Year 11 and Year 13, it is normal for the focus in lessons to be on revision and exam practice and revisiting knowledge that is not yet secure.

As you may be aware, there has been considerable consultation (by OFQUAL) on how A Level, AS Level and GCSE grades will be awarded this year. **It is important that we bring two key areas of this consultation outcome to your attention.** Firstly, we do know that assessment will be on what students know and can do. So, students' focus should be on learning thoroughly everything they have been taught and revising and preparing fully as if for an exam. Teachers will be giving guidance for individual subjects and it is important that students follow what their teachers are asking them to do. Secondly, we know that we can use evidence from across the whole course. Therefore, we will take account as fully as possible of everything students have already achieved.

Although the results of the consultation have been published, it is important to remember that we do not yet have all the answers. We won't have full guidance from the exam boards until the end of the month. Further guidance from exam boards, such as 'grade descriptors', will be produced as part of this as well as optional assessment material.

**Our key message to you is that we are looking to give students the best opportunities to show what they know and can do** – and we will finalise the detail as soon as we have final guidance from the exam boards. We will make sure students and families know how assessment will work before they get to that point. We will use types of tests and assessments that students are used to as much as possible. We must be fair and objective to all students and in line with national standards. There will be external moderation and exam boards will look closely at what we have done. We must be able to show it is fair, or else everyone's grades will be at risk.

The consultation also gives guidance to students and parents. It is very important that teachers are not pressured by students or parents. That would be unfair to them and to other students and we have asked staff to report any cases of undue pressure to the Senior Leadership Team. You can read the full outcome of the consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

*Dream Big • Aim High • Reach Far*



Please also note that examination results days have changed. Examination results days will be held in school on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August for A Level** and **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August for GCSE**.

If you have any questions or queries, please do share these using E-Praise messenger.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "UPright". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Mrs K Wright  
Secondary Headteacher