

5th January 2021

Dear Year 11 and families,

You will no doubt have heard the Prime Minister announce last night that GCSEs and A Levels will not now be taking place in the normal way this summer. In the coming days we will get some details of what might replace them. It is likely it will be a similar system to last year, although not 100% definite. This involved teachers assessing student performance based on class work, homework, mock examinations, other tests and other evidence.

I am only too aware how shocked and disappointed many of you will be about not getting the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learnt in your final exams. Indeed we had been assured that exams would take place, and we had planned accordingly.

Whilst I cannot give you concrete information about what will happen, there are some things I know will stand whatever happens:

You must keep working; and that work will be recognised. All your efforts and learning so far, and in the coming months will count. Your teachers will guide and support you in the very best way they can. Whatever system comes in it will be influenced by what you do now.

Your results will be 'real' and will allow you the same opportunities as any other group of year 11s. All your college, work and university plans stay the same. Do not worry that you have to change your planned next steps.

This pandemic presents us with many challenges that run beyond our control. In these situations, we all need to focus on the things we can influence and control. For you all in year 11 that means attending your online lessons and completing everything you are asked to do. It is as simple as that! Other things are for others to worry about and sort out on your behalf. Trust that we will always do everything in our power to get the best possible outcomes for you all.

I am so proud of all of you; you have shown remarkable resilience over the past 10 months. Stay positive, stay focused and keep working! I will be in touch again as soon as we know more about what is happening.

Kind Regards,



Ruth England
Headteacher

