

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

— Success nothing less —

Examinations 2021

You will all now be aware that the GCSE examinations for 2021 have been cancelled. The Secretary of State for Education has informed schools that GCSE grades will be awarded via Centre Assessed Grades as they were in 2020. At the moment this is the only information I have. Once I have further details, I will write to you again.

Unfortunately, there is still have no clarity about vocational qualifications such as BTECs and we have to assume that some or possibly all of assessments for these courses will continue. This affects both year 10 and 11 students studying these courses. Again, once there is greater clarity around these subjects I will inform you immediately.

For some, this will be a source of immense stress and I want to reassure all of our students that we are here to support them academically, pastorally and with high quality post-16 guidance.

It is, therefore, vital that all students continue to work at home accessing the remote learning offer. Teachers will use all work completed by students as the basis by which to assign each grade. Clearly, we have completed internal assessment data to use as evidence of performance, however, existing classwork and remote learning submissions will all provide significant contributions to decisions about final grades.

Working from home remotely can be challenging but the stakes are high and the work submitted will provide us with important evidence to support decision making around each grade for each subject. The quality of the online remote learning set by our teachers is of an extremely high standard and is easy to engage with and accessible for all levels. The teaching staff are on hand every day, manning the google classrooms ready to answer queries and provide high quality impactful feedback to aid progress. We are here to support every child every step of the way but it is the responsibility of the students and their families to ensure they engage with the learning activities.

The grades we assign to students will depend on the bank of evidence we have available to make appropriate judgements. There is no published end date for the current lockdown so the work completed and submitted by our students will comprise a large part of the bank evidence.

I am confident that if we work together each child can make the progress they are capable of and, therefore, still despite the lockdown, achieve their target grades.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school via examinations2021@aspire.fcat.org.uk or on (01253) 353155.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Woods
Headteacher