21st January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of a Year 11 student

I am writing to keep you informed of the current position regarding qualifications this year.

The Government has decided that due to the amount of disruption to learning since March 2020, exams cannot be held in a way which is fair. They would therefore like exam grades to be awarded based on teacher assessment, using a variety of evidence and additional training materials, to inform their judgements.

Students need grades to continue to the next stage of their education or training, or into employment. Grades must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do, and they must be widely understood and respected.

In place of exams in summer 2021 the Government is proposing that a student’s grade in a subject will be based on their teacher’s assessment of the standard at which they are performing.

In order to obtain opinions on their proposals a consultation period has been announced.

Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) want to hear the views of students who were due to take their exams, their parents and carers, their teachers, school and college leaders and others who have an interest, including further and higher education providers, and employers.

You can find details of the consultation here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021](Year%2011%20exams%20letter%20%281%29.docx)

We want you to know that we will do everything we can to ensure that your child has the necessary skills and qualifications to access the next stage of their lives. It is therefore important that they continue to focus on what is within their control and what they need for their next steps. They can do this by:

* Attending all remote and/ or face to face lessons
* Completing all work set by their teachers
* Taking part in the range of activities to assess their progress

All of this will be taken into account when determining Teacher Assessed Grades.

I know that these are uncertain and anxious times for everyone but I would like to once again reassure you that we will continue to support your child to ensure that they fulfil their potential throughout Year 11.

Please do not hesitate to contact school should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

Hazel Banks